PNP superintendent prime suspect in Al-Ghozi escape

Story below, Col. 2

Body waits in freezer as wife, mom squabble

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Cremation or burial?

The Regional Trial Court is expected to decide today on the manner of disposal of the body of slain Army Capt. Peter James Angeles following a disagreement between his wife and his mother.

ARMY/A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Shipping van yields 6 tons of explosives** NEWS/A2
- **More graft raps vs Roco** NEWS/A2
- **Bangkok urges junta to release Suu Kyi** WORLD/A11

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, July 22, 2003 ★★★ 42 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 224 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Tax execs say they're victims of trial by publicity

By Clarissa S. Batino, *Business*

TRIAL by publicity.

The three tax officials under fire said yesterday they were being tried by publicity, and vowed to redeem their name and honor before the courts.

All three—Assistant Commissioners Edwin Abella and Percival Salazar and resigned Regional Director Lucien Sayuno of the Bureau of Internal Revenue—lamented in separate interviews that the Department of Finance had unfairly aired their cases before the public without regard for their reputation or verifying the facts.

At the same time, Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. defended his decision to relieve Abella and Salazar of their responsibilities and assign them to work at his office pending completion of the investigation. Sayuno resigned three weeks ago.

The three BIR officials strongly denied that they had enriched themselves in office, each saying they had other means of income aside from their monthly salaries of less than P25,000.

"My three children who are working overseas were all distressed. *Grabe ang damage sa reputasyon ko* (The damage to my reputation is enormous). My children called me up immediately when they read the news on the Internet. My family has other means outside of what I earn from the BIR. I'm not exactly poor. I already drove a car when I was studying law at the Ateneo," said a very emotional Salazar.

3 TAX/A14

3 BIR men charged; more legal cases loom

By Volt Contreras and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE THREE tax officials charged with graft yesterday at the Ombudsman face another more immediate legal problem. The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission yesterday said it would wrap up administrative proceedings against the three officials in "45 days"—considerably quicker than the criminal investigation the Ombudsman would conduct.

But the fourth official the Department of Finance accused of graft, customs warehousing chief Manuel Valencia, was immediately ordered relieved by Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo pending investigation. (*See separate story*).

In a press briefing, President Macapagal-Arroyo vowed to crack down on other corrupt officials in the bureaucracy, and with the same intensity she has devoted to her campaign against terrorism and drug trafficking.

"We shall crack down on corruption in the same degree we are cracking down on terror and drugs. We will punish officials at any level in accordance with due process," the President said.

Corruption "strikes at the root of our national security and stability," she added.

Ms Macapagal emphasized that she would not "tolerate the corrupt enrichment of a few at the expense of the good name and prestige of the majority of the civil servants who serve with honesty and devotion."

She was referring to Valencia and three Bureau of Internal Revenue officials: Assistant Commissioners Edwin Abella and Percival Salazar (who were reassigned yesterday to the Commissioner's office) and Regional Director Lucien Sayuno (who had resigned three weeks ago). The official income of the four officials could not justify their extensive holdings based on a lifestyle check undertaken by the Department of Finance beginning in November last year.

The four have been charged with violating the Law on Forfeiture of Unlawfully Acquired Property and the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act

3 BIR/A14

GMA sets aside ₱8B for Marcos' victims

₱30B to fund land reform program

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

EIGHT billion pesos for the victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime and P30 billion for agrarian reform.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday how the Marcos Swiss deposits that the Supreme Court forfeited in favor of the government last week would be used once the high court's ruling "is finalized as we expect it to be finalized."

By the President's reckoning, the Marcos deposits the high court declared ill-gotten have grown from $386 million in 1986 to $708 million, or P38 billion, today.

The disposition of the P38 billion, now in an escrow account of the Philippine National Bank, was discussed at the meeting of the Development and Budget Coordinating Council that Ms Macapagal presided over yesterday.

Ms Macapagal came out with the amount for the rights victims and for agrarian reform even before Congress could approve a bill seeking compensation for victims of martial law by amending Republic Act No. 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law. The law requires that all ill-gotten wealth recovered by the Presidential Commission on Good Government from the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies go to the land reform program.

"Well, we don't know the amount the law will provide for but we're putting P8 billion in escrow just to make sure," Ms Macapagal said in a rare appearance before Palace reporters.

GMA SETS/A10

JEEPNEY STRIKE
These little girls in Makati don't seem to mind the trek home in the noonday sun but elsewhere in the metropolis, a wildcat strike by jeepney drivers left tens of thousands of angry and anxious commuters stranded Monday. ERIK ARAZAS

It's official: Police colonel is prime suspect

By Christian V. Esguerra

IT'S OFFICIAL: Supt. Reuben Galban is the prime suspect in Indonesian bomb-maker Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi's escape from Camp Crame.

The dismissed chief of the police Intelligence Group's Foreign Intelligence Liaison Office (Filo) could have received "a very huge amount to sacrifice his career" by facilitating the escape, Director Eduardo Matillano of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group told the INQUIRER.

"We still don't have hard evidence about money changing hands but definitely there was (money involved)," Matillano said.

The case against Galban was boosted by reports that he was spotted in front of the IG's old building at the time when Al-Ghozi and two other inmates bolted their detention cells.

Matillano yesterday read excerpts from a sworn statement in which he said Galban

IT'S/A14

FORMER communist hit squad leader Nilo de la Cruz walks out of the WPD headquarters. RANDY HORMILLOSA

ABB chieftain cries foul over WPD arrests

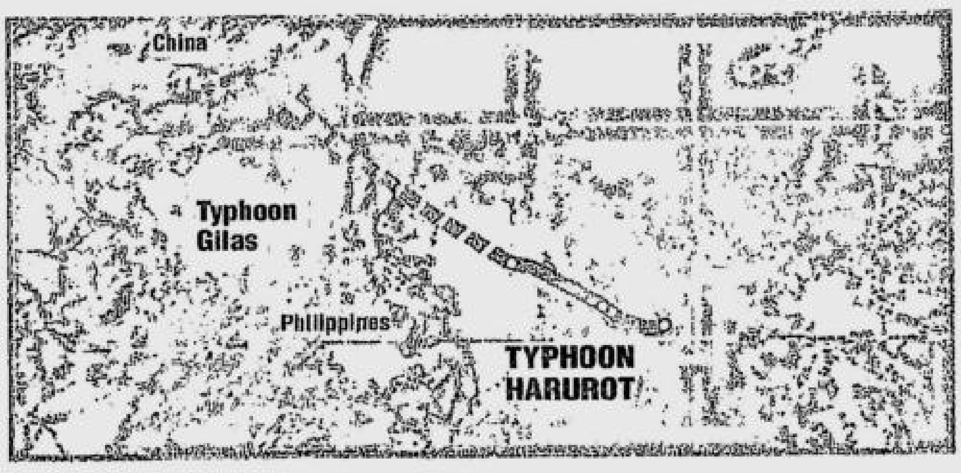
By Leila Salavarria, *Metro*
and Carla P. Gomez, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

A FORMER leader of a communist hit squad yesterday said his group's preliminary peace agreement with the government may be imperiled after police detained him and two others without warrants.

Nilo de la Cruz, former head of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, also said the Western Police District was trying to frame his two companions—his son Lejun and Arnold Salazar—for the attempted killing of athletics chief Go Teng Kok at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila on July 1.

WPD plainclothesmen arrested De la Cruz, his son and Salazar at the Centennial

ABB/A10



1,000 left stranded in Bicol

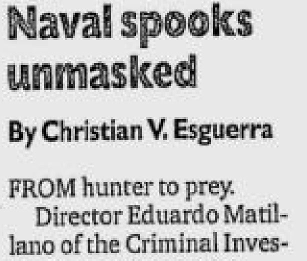
By Gil Francis G. Arevalo and Joyce Mejillano
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Typhoon "Harurot," described by weathermen as "disastrously big," has stranded more than 1,000 passengers at different ports in the Bicol region.

As of 2 p.m. yesterday, Harurot (international code name: Imbudo) was estimated at 290 km east of Virac, Catanduanes. Packing maximum sustained winds of 165 km per hour (kph) near the center and with gustiness of up to 195 kph, the typhoon was moving at a speed of 22 kph.

Today, Harurot is forecast to be 320 km southeast of Aparri, Cagayan. By to-

1,000/A10


ANO BA YAN? GUMUGULO!

Spy vs spy: Naval spooks unmasked

By Christian V. Esguerra

FROM hunter to prey.

Director Eduardo Matillano of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the police officer tasked with investigating the mysterious escape of Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, has found himself the subject of a military surveillance.

SPY/A14

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northeastern Luzon will be stormy with rough to very rough seas. The rest of Luzon including Samar will have rains and occasional gusty winds. The rest of Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/22/03 SOURCE: PAGASA

Second FrontPage

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Metro Manila	Occasional Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Stormy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Occasional Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

AFP to probe 'restive' officers

By TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño

THE MILITARY will probe a "small group" of restive junior military officers for possible breach of protocol after complaints about their low hazard pay, graft in uniform and the management style of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes surfaced in the media last week.

The "grumbling" by a group of Army and Marines captains belonging to Philippine Military Academy Classes '94 and '95 had set off speculation they were planning to mount a coup against the administration.

"We will continue our investigation to determine the extent of the involvement of these officers, whether there were rules or laws that were violated," said AFP chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, when asked about steps he had taken to address the officers' complaints.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier ordered Abaya to set up a mechanism to address the young officers' grievances.

For now, Abaya said, he saw no need to reprimand the griping officers, saying any sanctions would have to be based on the outcome of an investigation.

"If they have violated some rules, Articles of War, etc., then we will mete out the corresponding penalty," Abaya said at a press briefing at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City yesterday afternoon.

Opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, however, said yesterday Malacañang had leaked the story of the discontented young officers to the media to divert attention from the embarrassing escape of Indonesian bomber Fathur Roman al-Ghozi from police custody.

"The purpose (of the leak was) to create another story that would cover up the Al-Ghozi (escape)," said the senator who is a former AFP chief of staff.

Al-Ghozi and two members of the Abu Sayyaf escaped from Camp Crame, the national police headquarters which is located across Camp Aguinaldo, on July 14.

Biazon said the suspicion arose after the young officers themselves expressed surprise that a big thing was made of a party they attended over two weeks ago for a fellow officer leaving for the United States for military schooling.

The INQUIRER reported last week that President Macapagal was moving fast to quell the restiveness of a group of young officers who were complaining about the low hazard pay and lack of housing for those in the active military service, as well as Secretary Reyes' "micro-management" of the military.

A "big" meeting was reportedly held at The Fort on July 11 where the young officers aired their gripes against the government, which prompted the President to summon their senior officers to the Palace the following day.

Biazon said the story on the griping officers "got out of hand" because it has created "a feeling of instability in our communities."

Abaya said he recently held "bull sessions" with members of PMA Classes '94 and '95 to discuss their complaints and learned that only a small group of class members had been involved in preparing the paper on the issue of graft and corruption in the organization, among other gripes.

During a dialogue with 64 members of the 220-strong Class '95 last Thursday, Abaya said he learned that "less than 10" members of the class had advocated an anti-graft and corruption campaign.

During a meeting with several members of the 235-strong Class '94 yesterday, he said he was informed that none of them had raised the issue of low hazard pay, lack of housing and Reyes' micro-management of the military as reported in the media.

"They were disappointed that their class was being made to appear to be part of this group," he said.

NO RESTIVE officers here, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya tells the media during yesterday's press conference at Camp Aguinaldo. Flanking him are Brig. Gen Carlito Gamit Gamit and Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Vice Chief of Staff. JOAN BONDOC

Salamat won't sit on panel after all

By Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Moro Islamic Liberation Front chair Salamat Hashim will not sit as head of his group's negotiating panel, when peace talks with the government resume.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, denied reports published on Sunday that had quoted him as saying that the movement's Central Committee, or policy-making body, had decided to replace Ebrahim Murad, vice chair for military affairs, as panel head.

Jaafar said he was quoted out of context on Salamat's participation in the stalled talks. "What I said was that Chairman Salamat would be at the panel as head during the signing of the final peace agreement."

He was issuing the clarification, Jaafar said, "so as not to confuse the public, particularly the Bangsamoro people." So far, he added, no changes had been made in the MILF panel composition.

With Murad as head, the other panel members are Lanang Ali, Allan Torres, Ahmad Alonto and former Maguindanao Rep. Michael Mastura.

Jaafar said the MILF panel was ready for the resumption of talks, which had been stalled following the military offensive at the Buliok complex, a rebel stronghold in Pikit, North Cotabato, last Feb. 11. "We are just waiting for a signal from Malaysia, being the host country in the peace negotiations," he said.

Government critics have alleged that the peace process is an elaborate plan to consolidate Muslim votes for administration candidates in the next elections. *With Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Shipping van yields 6 tons of explosives

By Martin P. Marfil

POLICE and Customs officials yesterday announced the discovery and confiscation of six tons of explosive materials from a container van at the port of Manila.

Initial reports said the cargos—six tons of sodium nitrate—was shipped to the Philippines sometime in June and left at the port in a 20-foot container van.

Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya of the Philippine National Police Civil Security Group, who was present at the press conference announcing the seizure, said the authorities were alerted to the shipment by a security guard who tipped them off about a certain "Abdul" who was trying to get the cargo released.

At the time, Berroya said, the PNP-CSG was investigating a report that a local terrorist cell was planning to smuggle a huge quantity of explosive materials into Metro Manila.

"Abdul," Berroya said, was trying to facilitate the shipment's release through a customs "insider."

He said police were trying to learn the identity of "Abdul." The shipment, he added, was not covered by a clearance.

Fears of a renewed terrorist bombing campaign have surged following the escape recently from police custody of convicted Indonesian terrorist Fathur al-Ghozi and two members of the Abu Sayyaf terror group, Abdulmukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal.

Sodium nitrate, according to police officials, is in the same category as potassium nitrate and ammonium nitrate, which are also ingredients of fertilizer.

Sodium nitrate, police said, was used as early as 1858 for mine blasting in Europe.

GMA to AFP: Keep up defenses

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the armed forces would remain on "active defense" despite the ceasefire with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The President said the government would act to protect communities from harm, and that, in this regard, there would be no hair-splitting.

"We are standing down from punitive actions, but we have to provide an umbrella of active defense to give the people peace of mind," Ms Macapagal explained.

The President ordered the downgraded AFP operations, after the government and the MILF peace panels signed a mutual ceasefire effective July 19.

Both sides are awaiting the go-signal from host Malaysia to resume formal peace talks in Kuala Lumpur.

"When we say active defense, we continue with our normal law enforcement and police functions," AFP Chief Gen. Narciso Abaya said yesterday.

Abaya denied allegations by the MILF that the military violated the ceasefire by raiding the homes of separatist rebels in Pagalungan, Zamboanga on Saturday and seizing weapons, including anti-tank rockets and ammo.

"There was a valid search warrant, which was the basis for that raid, so it was undertaken by both the AFP and the PNP," Abaya said at a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu threatened to file a complaint with the government peace panel and ask Malaysia to look into the incident.

Turning the tables on the MILF, military officials said some Muslim rebels harassed militiamen in Maguindanao over the weekend.

The incident reportedly resulted in an exchange of gunfire between some 60 rebels and members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) in Barangay Nunangan and Macadayon in Talitay town around 5 p.m. Saturday.

Opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday expressed fears that the Macapagal administration had entered into a "secret deal" with the MILF regarding the creation of a separate Bangsamoro state.

At a press conference, Biazon warned the Palace against making assurances as to the expansion of territories currently controlled by the rebels.

He issued the call after securing a draft of the final peace agreement.

Biazon pointed out that the proposal to transform Muslim Mindanao into a federal state was "not within the powers of the Executive to grant," but would require a Constitutional amendment. *With TJ Burgonio, Michael Lim Ubac and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

More graft charges filed against Roco

By Volt Contreras

PRESIDENTIAL aspirant Raul Roco is facing another graft suit filed by employees of the Department of Education which he used to head as secretary.

The DepEd employees union filed yesterday a complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman citing three counts of graft against Roco.

The charges were for his alleged unlawful use of a helicopter, when he was DepEd secretary; his having ordered the printing of some 350,000 posters bearing his image at the cost of P1.14 million without a public bidding, and his failure to "seasonably remit" to the National Treasury P74,814 in service fee collections in September 2001, in violation of government auditing regulations.

Roco's helicopter trips to provinces that could have otherwise been reached by land cost the government some P211,000, the union chaired by Fidel Salosagcol said in its complaint.

The union labeled Roco's use of a helicopter as a waste of scant government funds.

The complaint particularly cited Roco's use of a chartered Cebu Air helicopter, when he inspected schools in Mt. Province and Benguet in October 2001.

Last Friday, private citizens Edgar Dagimol and Alberto de Vera filed another graft case against Roco over his hiring of 10 consultants from his former law office and for making a DepEd driver chauffeur his wife around using a government car.

Included in yesterday's complaint was former DepEd Undersecretary Ernesto Pangan, who authorized the rental of the helicopter.

WANTED
WANTED
WANTE

'NOW THAT HE'S GONE'

A soldier puts up a wanted poster, albeit belatedly, for Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi inside Camp Crame, the very place he escaped from on July 14. JOAN BONDOC

Australia renews travel tip vs RP

AUSTRALIA renewed its travel advisory for the Philippines on Monday, citing reports to its embassy of plans for another series of terrorist attacks, specifically in Manila and the troubled southern Mindanao region.

"Australians in the Philippines should exercise extreme caution . . . threats against Australians and Australian interests in the Philippines are high, and we continue to receive reports that terrorist elements in the region are planning attacks," an advisory posted on the Australian Embassy's Web site said.

The travel advisory was renewed Monday, a week after Australian Prime Minister John Howard visited Manila and announced an antiterrorist accord with the Philippines.

Three terror suspects escaped from police custody during Howard's visit. The advisory did not mention the escape.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople said the Philippine government will continue to protest what he considers harsh travel advisories by foreign governments. *AP*

Writing of State of the Nation Address takes up much time and manpower

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FOR over a month now, three teams of Cabinet officials, presidential advisers and consultants have been working on the draft of the President's State of the Nation Address before the joint opening of Congress on Monday.

As to what surprises will be included in her much-awaited Sona, only President Macapagal-Arroyo knows for sure, according to Presidential Management Staff chief and speechwriter Silvestre Afable Jr.

Leadership

Palace sources said the President's Sona would revolve around the main theme of "Leadership in a Strong Republic."

"I cannot comment on that," Afable said when asked if it would be the President's last Sona.

"Based on her Dec. 30 statement, it would be her last," said Presidential chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao.

"The Sona will have no partisan context. This is not part of the Sona," said Afable, when asked if the President would address the various endorsements for her candidacy in 2004.

"The President has kept saying she will not address any partisan issue," he added.

Another Palace official said the President was writing her own draft.

"She has her own ideas. In her last Sona, she overruled the draft (submitted by the Sona teams)," the official said.

Afable and Tiglao both declined to talk about the contents of this year's Sona.

But sources said "valedictory," "continuity" and "legacy" were some of the key words that were seen in some drafts.

"It's not really a valedictory. It's a statement of accomplishments," Afable said, adding that another part of the speech would dwell on what remained to be accomplished.

Some of the President's own officials have speculated she would change her mind about not running in 2004.

Endorsements

After a highly successful state visit to the United States last May, the President had received endorsements for another term from President George W. Bush, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and South Korean President Roh Moon-hyun.

To drum up the Macapagal administration's accomplishments, various Cabinet secretaries were giving briefings to Palace reporters on their respective accomplishments.

The President also held a "GMA Kalahi caravan" in the Visayas last week. This week, she will be going to Laguna and Quezon.

Journalist Rod Dula dies at 54

JOURNALIST Rodolfo "Rod" Eco Dula passed away on July 21. He was 54.

At the time of his death, Dula was travel editor of the newspaper Malaya, for which he also wrote an editorial column for more than 10 years.

Malaya staff members said he died at the Manila Doctors Hospital at 1 a.m. yesterday. He had suffered cardiac arrest earlier at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Manila, where he was attending a party.

A former Benedictine monk, Dula was a staunch friend and supporter of the Monastery of the Transfiguration in Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

Along with his siblings, "Rudy" built in honor of their mother, Rosa Eco Dula, the popular Filipino deli and restaurant Mama Rosa in Quezon City. The restaurant was also a tribute to the family's Bicolano origins. Dula was born Aug. 12, 1949 in Bacon, Sorsogon.

He is survived by sisters Teresa and Rosario and brother-in-law Herman Tiu Laurel; nieces Golda, Michelle and Carla, and nephews Victor, Dimpy and Enzo.

Dula's remains lie at the San Beda Chapel, Mendiola, Manila. Interment will be at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Quezon City on July 26 after the 8 a.m. Mass.

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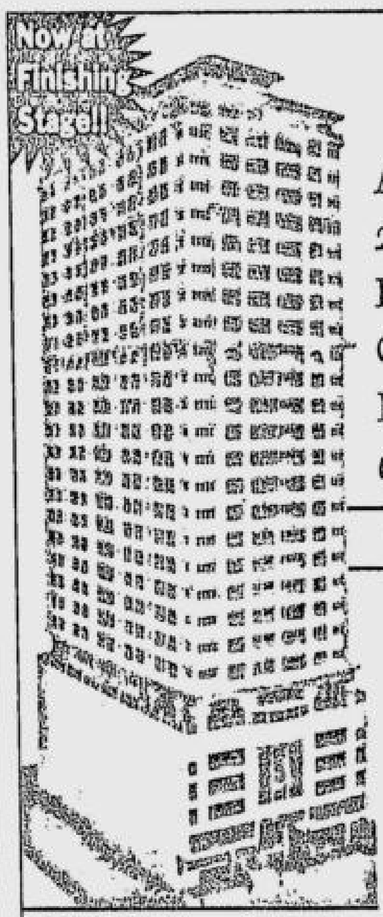

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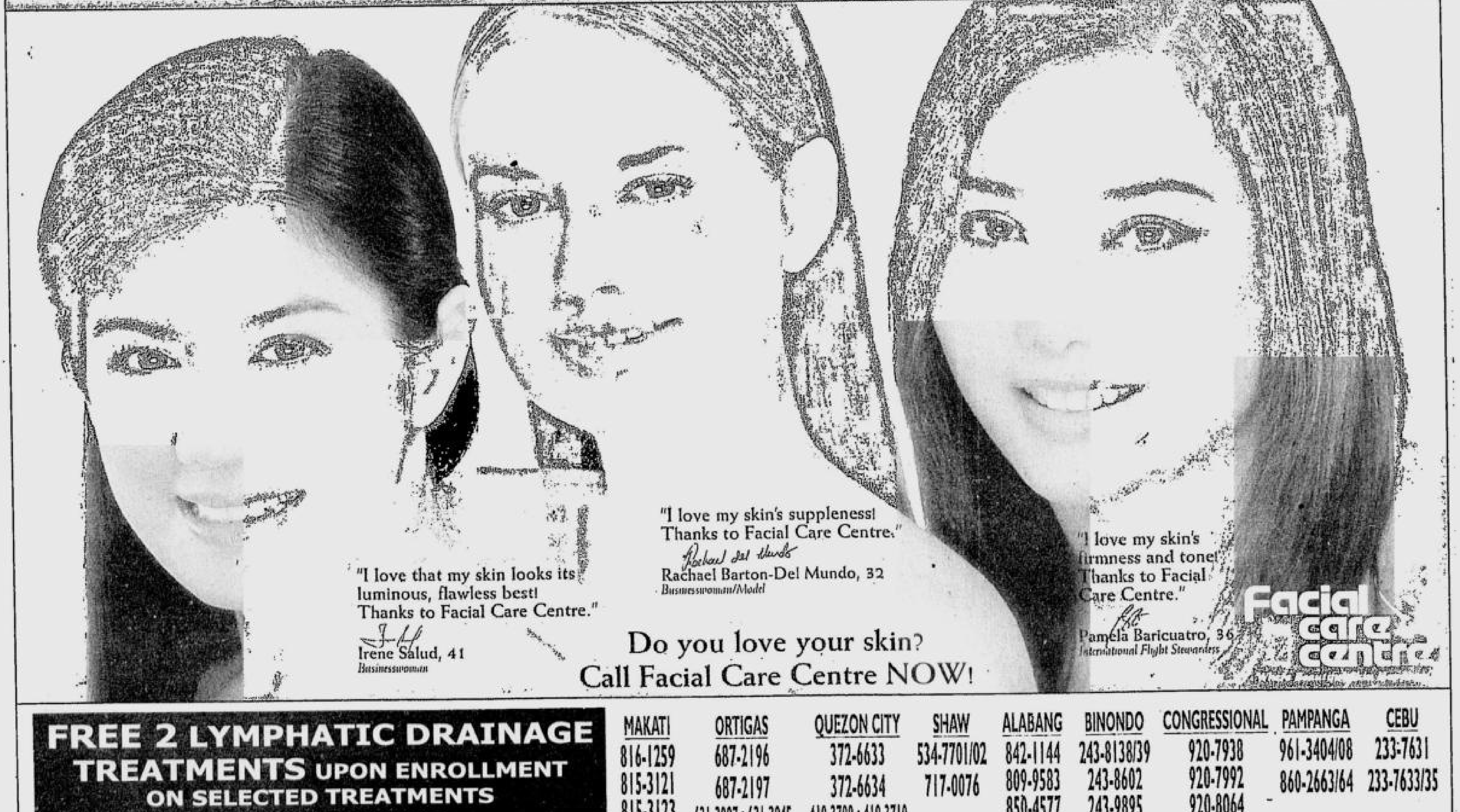

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Solon warns 'Con-con' senators of backlash

By Carlito Pablo

A MINDANAO congressman, claiming to speak for other legislators from the region, has warned senators opposed to a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution of an electoral backlash come 2004.

Rep. J. Mayo Almario (Lakas, Davao Oriental), chair of the House committee on Mindanao affairs, said senators are "national electionists" and they may have to pay a price when they seek reelection next year.

"They should not toy with our sentiments in Mindanao for the elections are fast approaching and we are carefully observing them," Almario said in a statement.

The Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revision of laws and codes is set to submit to the Senate plenary its endorsement of a constitutional convention as the mode for amending the 1987 Constitution.

Earlier, the House of Representatives approved Concurrent Resolution No. 16 which would convene both chambers of Congress into a constituent assembly to make changes to the Charter. Among the amendments is a shift to a parliamentary form of government under a federal system.

Almario described the Senate committee decision, arrived at by a vote of 6-3-2, as "disappointing" because it showed the senators did not give Mindanao's development priority.

Almario pointed out that forming a constitutional convention would delay Charter change until 2010, while convening a constituent assembly would allow for the amendments to be completed before next year's elections.

"A federal form of government would give the Muslims, Christians and Lumads in Mindanao a fuller opportunity to promote our own identity and culture and our own economic development at our own pace without seceding or declaring independence from the Republic," said Almario.

He said that what Mindanao needs is "independence from the biases of bureaucrats in what is known as Imperial Manila."

"Pro-constitutional convention senators who made campaign promises of prioritizing Mindanao's development are obviously contradicting their election rhetoric," Almario said.

He said that come election time, "when we hear the phrase 'priority development' uttered by reelectionist senators in Mindanao it would not appeal to us anymore."

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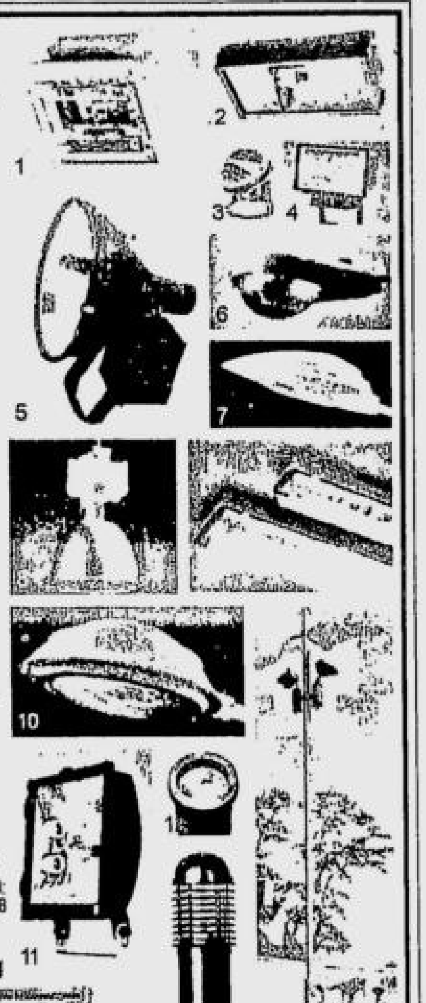

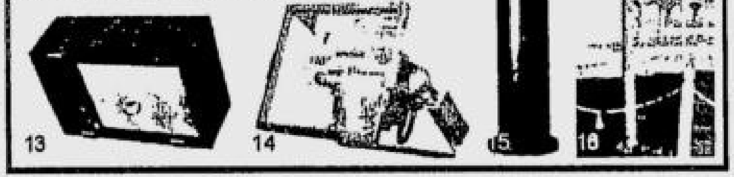

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3. Carlos de Jesus	Napaod, Labo, Camarines Norte	24.9352	T-12208
4. Francisco Regala	Bautista, Labo, Camarines Norte	9.2000	T-6318
5. Mineral Resources, Inc.	Benit, Labo, Camarines Norte	10.1522	T-168
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are now covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. Under DAR Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2003, the right to choose the area to be retained must be exercised within Sixty (60) days from the date of Publication of the Notice of Coverage. Failure to exercise this right of retention within the prescribed period shall be considered as a waiver of the right/privilege to: apply for exemption/exclusion or retention, nominate children as beneficiary/ies, or submit evidence for determining just compensation.

Under Executive Order No. 405, we shall request the Land Bank of the Philippines to determine the reasonable Land Value of the said property being acquired pursuant to Section 17, of Republic Act No. 6657

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PARO II

(PDI–July 22, 29 & Aug. 5, 2003)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF TUY (BATANGAS), INC. (RBTI)

1. By virtue of Monetary Board Resolution No. 603 dated April 14, 2000 ordering the closure of the Rural Bank of Tuy (Batangas), Inc., the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start receiving and processing claims for payment of insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Tuy (Batangas), Inc. Depositors are requested to proceed to the Municipal Hall of Tuy, Batangas, where the duly authorized representatives of PDIC are stationed, to file claims for payment of insured deposits from July 24 to August 4, 2003. Depositors may also file their claims by mail addressed to-

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Department
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue
   1231 Makati City

   PDIC representatives shall service claims and entertain queries from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Mondays thru Fridays.

2. Depositors are advised to present the following documents to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:

   a. Original evidence of deposit (i.e. savings passbook and certificate of time deposits).

   b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's specimen signature.

   Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of claims processing.

3. Depositors of the closed Rural Bank of Tuy (Batangas), Inc. have 18 months from RBTI's re takeover by PDIC or up to November 19, 2004 to file their claims for payment of insured deposits. After November 19, 2004, PDIC as insurer shall no longer accept any claim for payment of insured deposits maintained with the subject bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI–July 22 & 23, 2003)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF BALAYAN (BATANGAS), INC. (RBBI)

1. By virtue of Monetary Board Resolution No. 650 dated April 27, 2000 ordering the closure of the Rural Bank of Balayan (Batangas), Inc., the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start receiving and processing claims for payment of insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Balayan (Batangas), Inc. Depositors are requested to proceed to the Municipal Hall of Balayan, Batangas, where the duly authorized representatives of PDIC are stationed, to file claims for payment of insured deposits from July 24 to August 4, 2003. Depositors may also file their claims by mail addressed to-

   The Manager
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   PDIC representatives shall service claims and entertain queries from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Mondays thru Fridays.

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3. Depositors of the closed Rural Bank of Balayan (Batangas), Inc. have 18 months from RBBI's re takeover by PDIC or up to December 10, 2004 to file their claims for payment of insured deposits. After December 10, 2004, PDIC as insurer shall no longer accept any claim for payment of insured deposits maintained with the subject bank.

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DOJ presents 'strong case' vs Atong Ang in US court, sees his return

ATONG Ang will be coming back.

The Department of Justice yesterday said it had presented a strong case in the United States against the fugitive businessman, and there was "no doubt" he would be extradited.

Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said US Embassy legal attache Jeffrey Cole was able to show before the Nevada court hearing of Ang's extradition case the "complete... paper trail on the receipt of the money on the (tobacco) excise tax."

The Philippines sent a team of lawyers led by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño to attend the hearing July 14.

Together with his old friend former President Joseph Estrada, Ang faces plunder charges before the Sandiganbayan allegedly for pocketing tobacco excise taxes from Ilocos Sur.

Gutierrez said Cole was able to prove Ang's complicity in the scam.

"We sent the team to impress upon the US government that we were really interested in bringing back Mr. Ang so he could answer the charges against him," she said.

The team included lawyers Dina Joy Tañala, Gabriel Enriquez and Arno Sanidad. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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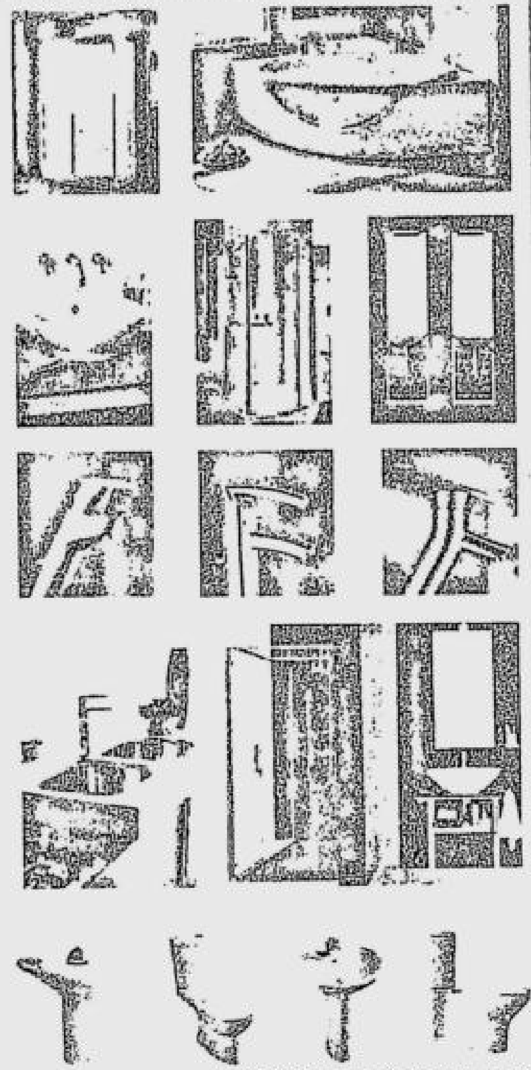

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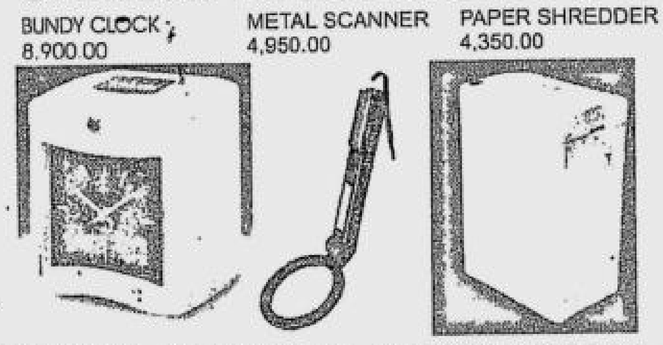

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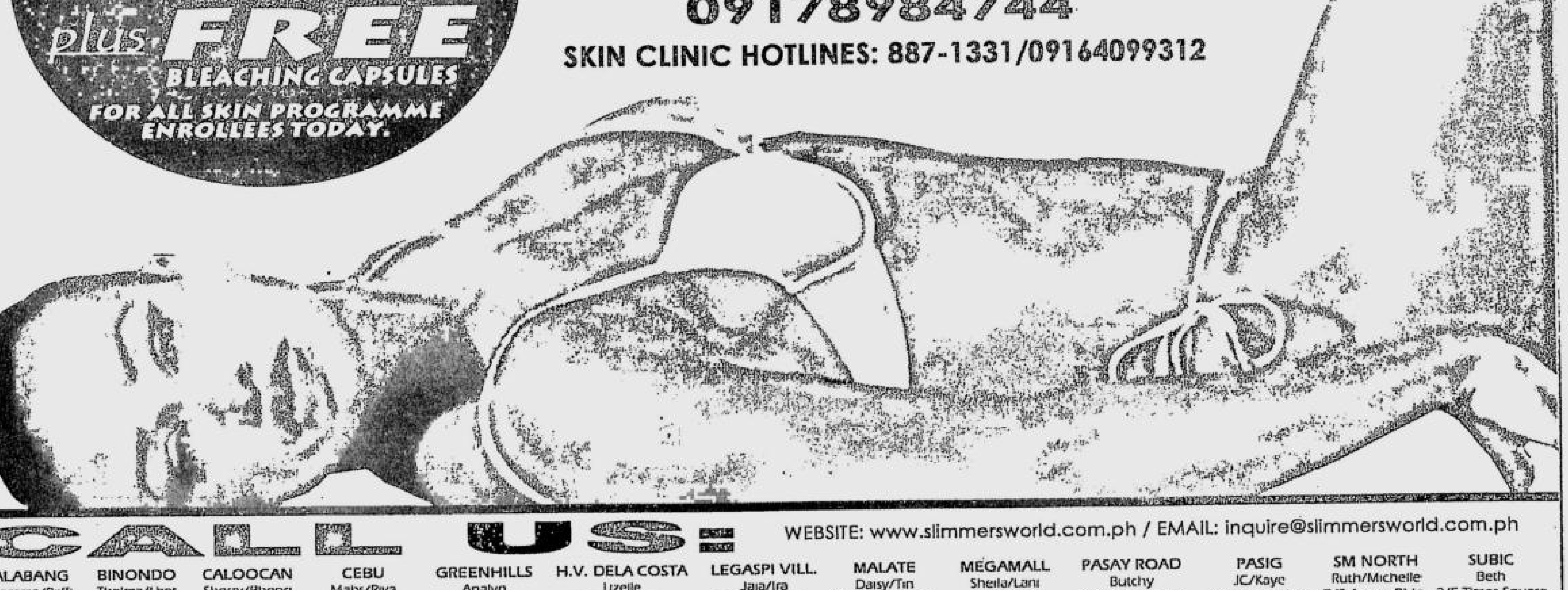

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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

Continuing search

MALACAÑANG has ordered the search for the alleged $13.2-billion Swiss account of Irene Marcos-Araneta to be continued. With the recent decision of the Supreme Court forfeiting about P36 billion in Marcos money in favor of the government, the time is now propitious to pursue the search for what has been called "the mother lode" of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

As the saying goes, we must strike while the iron is hot.

The present Supreme Court appears to be an active court, finally acting on the Marcos wealth case that had been pending for the past 17 years. The Marcoses were able to delay a decision on the case by using all the legal tactics and tricks in the book. But now it seems that the Court will have no more of their delaying tactics. If the government lawyers can prove that the $13.2-billion I. Araneta account exists and that it rightfully belongs to the government, we believe that it will hand down the right decision.

Even the attitude of the Marcoses seems to be changing a little. Except for the filing of the pro forma appeal for reconsideration within the 15-day period, the former first lady, Imelda R. Marcos, appears to be resigned to the forfeiture of the P36-billion fund held in escrow in the Philippine National Bank. Probably she's thinking that there's more where it came from. And viewed in the context of the Marcoses' incredible wealth, P36 billion is "loose change," as former Solicitor General Frank Chavez described it.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, the eldest Marcos sibling, seems to be in a better, receptive mood. For instance, she said recently that while she was against a measure that would indemnify the human rights victims of the Marcos dictatorship from the P36 billion in frozen Marcos assets, she was not actively blocking its passage. Still, some sectors continue to doubt her sincerity, saying that she is just engaging in "sweet talk" because she is a senatorial aspirant.

When it comes to the $13.2-billion I. Araneta account, Imee may be more outspoken and resistant. After all, if it is true that such an account exists, it is that account that will take care of all the earthly—and probably, even the unearthly—needs of at least 13 generations of Marcoses, with a lot more to spare. Think of it: 13 generations of Marcoses living in comfort and luxury while the present generation of Filipinos suffers and bleeds as it struggles to pay off a gargantuan foreign debt that was largely the result of the world-class thievery committed during the Marcos regime.

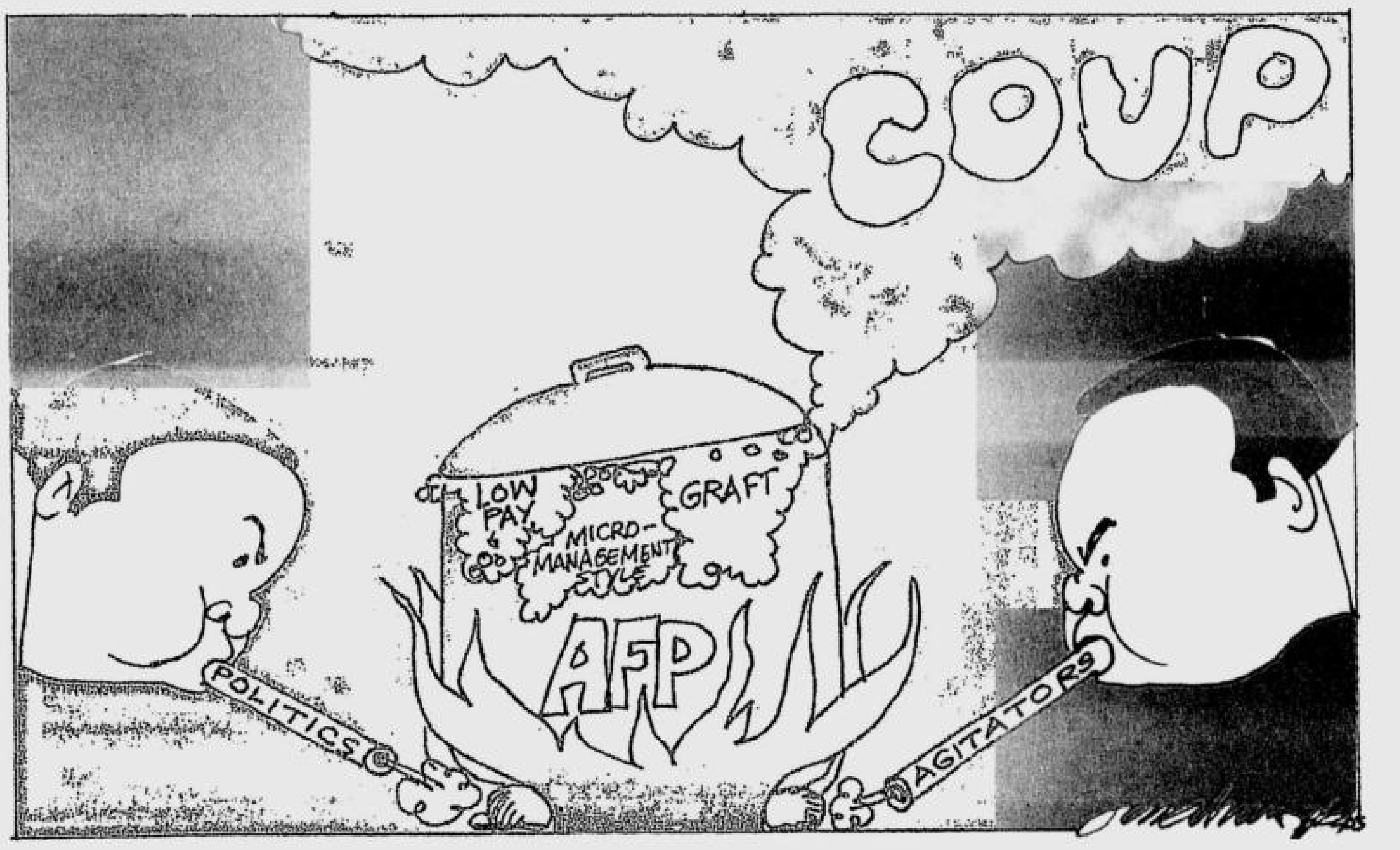
People's support

THE BIG majority of the Filipino people came together to oust the thieving Marcos conjugal dictatorship in February 1986. Now they can do no less than to support the government effort to prove the existence of the I. Araneta account and to have it confiscated in favor of the government. Every bit of information, every tip will help. Think of what $13.1 billion can do to improve the living conditions in our impoverished country.

Chavez, for one, has volunteered to help pursue the quest for the I. Araneta account. He accompanied a team of officials from the Presidential Commission on Good Government and Department of Justice that went to Dusseldorf in June 2001 to investigate the account. But yesterday, Chavez was complaining that the PCGG had not gotten in touch with him. We wonder why.

Officials who will be conducting the current inquiry can get some leads from the comprehensive stories written by INQUIRER reporter Donna Cueto in 2001 and 2002. We are ready to put the relevant stories in the INQUIRER archives at the disposal of investigating teams.

Probably the Philippines would not be the poor and backward country it is today if the $13.1 billion (about P700 billion) had not been stolen by the Marcoses and instead had been used in productive undertakings. The administration is now studying various ways to raise more funds for government operations and projects, including selling off some valuable government property. Well, here is a ready source of government funding. All that's needed is a good deal of financial sleuthing, a strong case in court and the political will to ferret out and work for the confiscation of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth.



A 'quintuple whammy' for Meralco customers

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LAST Week, Malacañang and Meralco announced that as a result of a compromise deal between the National Power Corp. and Meralco, electric rates would go up by 25 centavos per kilowatt-hour. Good news? No, bad news. It means, the government is lying to us again.

On the contrary, the deal will lead to higher power prices. In fact, it would lead to a "quintuple whammy" for the consumers, according to former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile who exposed the details of this latest scam and betrayal of the people by the government.

Not only that, this deal, instead of penalizing Meralco for unilaterally abrogating a valid contract with the Napocor, will reward it. It will allow Meralco to recover from its customers the P28 billion which the Supreme Court had ordered refunded because it was illegally collected by simply passing on the amount to the customers in their monthly bills. Enrile said the deal "was brokered by Malacañang without the participation of Napocor officials who were just told to accept the deal."

Here is how we are going to be robbed again:

Meralco has a 10-year contract with the Napocor to source the electricity it is distributing in its franchise areas from the Napocor. When the power generating firms of its sister corporations came online, Meralco started buying more and more of its power from these Lopez-owned power producers despite its contract with the Napocor. As a result, the Napocor lost P20 billion from power generated which Meralco was obligated under its contract to distribute and pay for but did not. Meralco countered that the Napocor failed to provide transmission lines from its power firms under the transitory provision of the Energy and Power Industry Reform Act (Epira).

The compromise deal calls for Meralco to pay the Napocor P20 billion for the abrogation of the supply contract in November 2002, and the Napocor to pay Meralco P8 billion as damages for the missing transmission lines.

Looks good, *'di ba*? But here is the catch, the "quintuple whammy" that Enrile said would hit consumers:

First, the consumers will pay for the P20 billion Meralco liability to the Napocor. Under this compromise deal, Malacañang allowed Meralco to pass this on to its customers in their monthly bills. In an INQUIRER story last Thursday, Meralco director Christian Monsod "said the utility firm would pay the amount (P20 billion) in five years, which would be reflected in customer's monthly bills as additional generation cost of between 13 and 14 centavos."

What does this gobbledygook mean? It means Meralco will not pay the Napocor the P20 billion. Its customers will. And this will be cleverly done by simply tacking it on to monthly consumer billing over five years so it will not be so obvious, Enrile said.

Second, Meralco was gifted with an P8-billion bonanza for "alleged damages" instead of being penalized for its arrogant, unilateral abrogation of its supply contract with the Napocor. Meralco never showed any audited figures to show how the P8 billion it is going to receive from the Napocor was arrived at, Enrile added.

Third, the Napocor suffered heavy losses when Meralco abrogated their contract. These losses are absorbed by all electricity consumers through higher rates and PPA (purchased power adjustment) charges.

Fourth, consumers will be hit by higher electricity rates because the lower Napocor rate of P2.40 per kWh will be replaced by the higher-priced electricity supplied by the Lopez-owned IPPs whose rates range from P5.50/kWh to P6.20/kWh for First Gas Power and from P6.25 to more than P7/kWh for Quezon Ltd.

So how will electric costs go down when the supply costs will rise from P2.40/kWh to P7 kWh?

Fifth, Napocor losses will further mount because it will be forced to cut down production and ultimately close down its Luzon-based power plants as Meralco sources its power supply from its own IPPs. These added losses will be reflected in further Napocor PPA rate increases. The Napocor owns efficient coal-fired power plants in Masinloc, Zambales, and Calaca, Batangas. These plants produce cheaper power than the Lopez-owned IPPs.

But among the provisions of the compromise deal is for Napocor's Calaca power plant, which has a capacity of 600 megawatts, to reduce production by half, or only 300 MW. Evidently, this is to allow the Lopez-owned San Lorenzo power plant to fully utilize its capacity of 500 MW.

Hence, from this alone, consumers will be made to pay P2.85 more per kWh (Napocor P2.40/kWh vs. First Gas-San Lorenzo P6.25/kWh).

Thus, closing down or reducing production of Napocor power plants will result in higher electricity costs for consumers.

Meralco, which enjoys a monopoly of power distribution in 50 franchise areas in Luzon (it just got a mega-franchise in Luzon) will end up getting more profitable and more powerful and its sister power firms like First Gas Power will be raking in billions of pesos in profits at the people's expense, Enrile said.

Proof: A report on the country's top 5,000 corporations in 2002 showed that Meralco is the Philippines' No. 1 corporation in terms of growth in sales while its sister company, First Gas Power, ranked No. 6 among the country's most profitable corporations.

The wonder of wonders is that First Gas accomplished all these in just 18 months of operation. It even declared a 78 percent cash dividend to stockholders last year.

Good news, bad news

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THAT was my topic in the INQUIRER Seminar Series, held last Saturday, specifically "Good News Vs. Bad News: Promoting Hope Without Sacrificing Truth."

To begin with, the truly good news is that that series has become tremendously successful. The inspiration for it came from the INQUIRER's desire to encourage or revive reading in this country, doubtless in part from self-interest (we do need readers) but in larger part from public interest (we do need an enlightened citizenry). In but a couple of years' time, I've seen that project grow by leaps and bounds. I spoke there also last year. My topic, if I remember right, had to do with the role of the youth in society. It was a much smaller group.

I understand that this year more than a thousand future journalists applied for the seminar, but only 400 or so could be accommodated. They were there full force at RCBC's very commodious auditorium Saturday morning. As I told them, having just rushed off there after failing to wake up early, if I had known I would be in for something like that, I'd have shaved.

Some of the things I said there may be worth sharing with readers. That is so because I've seen many letters to the editor that bear on them.

The first of this is that it is not the business of journalism to worry about the image of the country. Of course, reporters do need to exercise tremendous responsibility (certainly they may not be reckless) but only in getting facts down pat. Press freedom may not be fettered by such things as national security or the reputation of the country abroad. Reporters may not be prevented from scrutinizing the war in Mindanao because it might jeopardize the "war against terrorism" or reporting about sweatshops because it might cause American companies to cancel orders from Philippine garments makers. If the "bad news" affects Filipinos abroad, they should not blame the messenger. They should blame the people who made the message: the government, the sweatshop owners, the people who make pedophilia, child prostitution and the mountain of garbage in Payatas possible.

The image of the country is the business of PR and the tourism department. Indeed, it is the business of government and the citizens themselves. The image of a country is only in part created by media, it is mostly created by the people who live there. No amount of projecting to the world that this country is peaceful and prosperous will hypnotize the world into believing it is so.

A good rule of thumb for journalists is to keep in mind Edmund Hilary's answer to why he climbed Mt. Everest: Because it's there. That is the best answer to why journalists report what they do. Of course, there is no end to "what is there." That is a matter of perspective and tastefulness. I myself cannot understand why we humor Miriam Santiago and turn her opinions about candidates into news. Maybe it falls into the category of oddities, along with blind men who get licenses to own guns from the PNP, but that is not always how it strikes some people. Just as well, my pet peeve has always been TV reporters in particular who thrust microphones into the faces of grieving widows, specifically those whose husbands have been the victims of mayhem, whilst asking them how they feel. The fact that those faces are there is not an invitation to added mayhem.

Yet another point that may never be sufficiently emphasized is that bad news and good news are relative concepts. Martial law offers the best example. During that time, we had nothing but "good news." The Daily Express, the Times Journal and Bulletin Today, along with Channels 4, 9 and 13 were there to proclaim it every day. The "bad news" came only much later when Joe Burgos, a deeply upright and courageous man who today is batting something equally tyrannical, which is disease, and who is determined to vanquish it as well, put up We Forum and the late Boni Gillego showed that the Marcos medals, like pretty nearly everything about Marcos and martial law, were fake.

In fact, the "good news" during martial law was good news only to Marcos, it was bad news to everybody else. That bad news being the suppression of truth and the prolongation of tyranny. And in fact, the "bad news" during the twilight of years of martial law was good news to the nation, even if it was bad news to Marcos. That "bad news" was one of the things that brought his regime to its twilight. Which was good news to the world.

The point is simple: It is simply **not** true that "good news" is naturally positive, constructive and good for the nation and "bad news" is naturally negative, destructive and bad for the nation. That is a horrendous fallacy. Good news about a detestable thing is negative, destructive and bad for the nation. Bad news about it is positive, constructive and good for the nation. I've never believed in those TV programs that set out to tell the "good news" about the country. More often than not, they merely succeed in telling the good news about the people who pay them (they do PR jobs) or about themselves (I have Ted Failon in mind).

Indeed, there is one very good news we have, or can cling to, despite the press' lapses, frequent or not, into sensationalism. Which is that we still have a free one. Whatever unsavory things the press may say about this country, that is something Filipinos here and abroad may still take pride in. We have a press that is free to say what it wants. In the end, you can't have a better endorsement of that than from the best source of good news of all, which is the Bible. If I recall right, it says: The truth shall set you free.

P.S. I did have some things to say about sensationalism, but I guess that will have to wait another day.

Win some, lose some for Imelda

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FOR Imelda Marcos it has been win some, lose some. Over the years she has won in all the five criminal cases filed against her and some Marcos officials in connection with the LRT case (this involved participation by alleged foundations of hers in real estate transactions affected by the construction of the LRT in Manila). But she lost the $682-million (P36 billion) Marcos Swiss deposits when the Supreme Court awarded the funds, held in escrow in the PNB since 1997, to the government, ruling that these gargantuan deposits were disproportionate to the Marcos income. The Marcoses will probably appeal the case, but it's doubtful that the unanimous decision will be reversed. But that's not Imelda's only headache: there are some nine criminal cases still pending in the Sandiganbayan and 33 criminal cases in a Manila RTC, all involving other aspects of the Swiss deposits, such as violation of the anti-dollar salting law, etc.

Then, too, some years back Imelda was slapped by the BIR P23 billion in inheritance taxes on the Marcos estate, now assessed at P40 billion with the interest. Accordingly, the BIR has sought to recover various non-sequestered Marcos assets, to help pay those taxes. Three weeks ago, the Marcos mansion in San Juan was auctioned off, but there were no bidders.

* * *

At last Sunday evening's dzRH program, which Cecile Alvarez and I co-host on poverty alleviation projects, we had the former Philippine Coconut Authority chair in the Aquino era, former Quezon Rep. Oscar Santos, as guest. Ka Oca traced the history of the coconut levy and discussed the ways being explored by the administration to use the P700 million coco levy funds from the UCPB, to assist the impoverished coconut farmers. As columnist Conrad de Quiros rightly pointed out, the concern now is that these funds be used judiciously.

Santos pointed out that the stacks of Marcos presidential decrees setting up the coco levy and various investments from it mentioned no less than 82 times that the levy was "for the benefit of the coconut farmers," while the PDs setting up the UCPB mentioned no less than 37 times that the bank was being set up to help the farmers gain access to credit. Santos emphasized that unfortunately many of the farmers from whom the levy was extracted from 1973 to 1982 have passed away without tasting its benefits, but justice demands that their families be helped. One of the projects to be pushed is a Grameen-type micro-credit, amounting to P4,000 per borrower, which will be extended to women-borrowers (they are conceded to be more credit-conscious than the men). About 25,000 women are expected to benefit from it, at a minimum of 1,200 borrowers per branch. Another P400 million will help at least 190,100 farmer/borrowers at P2,104 per farmer. Other funds will go to setting up facilities for copra drying, de-meating, direct copra marketing and other technical assistance.

* * *

Santos pointed out that there are 60 coconut-producing provinces, involving at least 30,000 barangays. If the P700-million seed fund could be used judiciously, it would be the start of a grassroots revolution that could help solve the insurgency problem. This is the kind of scheme that Eduardo Cojuangco and his group, which handled the coco levy funds, should have done long ago, but didn't.

Incidentally, reports say that news coverage of the "listening tour" of 11 provinces conducted by Cojuangco, preliminary to his making up his mind on whether to run in 2004 or not, was stopped after two provinces. This was because his caravan was hounded by militant coconut farmers' groups with placards blaming him for appropriating the levy funds.

* * *

With elections around the corner, an enterprising group has organized an interesting seminar that promises to tackle the nitty-gritty of a political campaign. Titled "Managing a Political Campaign," it will be under the auspices of the Ateneo University School of Government in Makati City, headed by Dean Henedina Abad. Veteran political strategist Paul Aquino will serve as director, and the lecturers include a number of personalities who have been active in various political campaigns. Among them are TV directress Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara, media consultants Tess Abesamis and Reli German and Julio Ragragio, formerly with DILG. The seminar runs from July 28 to Aug. 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details call Roy Choco at the Ateneo at 890-5695.

* * *

Diamonds are forever, but a diamond wedding anniversary is, in our day and age of at times fleeting relationships, a most precious rarity. Last month, Col. Felix P. Duenas Sr. (ret.), PMA class '42, who has been a pillar of the PMA Alumni Association, and the former Esmeralda Villar, his "Kaydet Girl" since 1943, renewed their vows of 60 years at a thanksgiving Mass at the Archbishop's Chapel in Villa San Miguel, Mandaluyong City, followed by a simple but elegant dinner at Le Souffle in Ortigas Center. The Duenases have been blessed with three sons: Maj. Gen. Felix Duenas Jr.(now deceased), Emmanuel and Jose Roberto, and a daughter, Edelwina, and nine grandchildren.

* * *

The Duenases, now both 82, were my regular "walking partners" when we were living in Camp Aguinaldo until 1995, and till today they enjoy the blessings of good health, with Colonel Duenas as ramrod straight as a PMA cadet. He received the PMAAA's prestigious Cavalier's Award twice for outstanding achievements in business and contributions to alumni welfare, as well as the Outstanding Citizen's Award from his hometown of Minalin, Pampanga, for having founded the Minalin Development Foundation that has been sending bright but poor students to higher education, funding livelihood projects for needy but deserving families and promoting development projects in the town.

Historian of the absurd

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WORDS of wisdom from Joey Reyes:

"As you grow older, you are expected to mellow. But then, like fruit that mellows, you eventually rot. So, better opt to be a happy pickle instead."

"Women, in marriage, should hope for the best and expect the worst. That also means that even in the confines of marriage, the lady of the house should be able to keep the house together even if the master of the house turns out to be a dog."

And here's his take on why the local movie industry is dying, a topic which he is eminently qualified to discuss:

"This is what differentiates the Filipino from the Pinoy. The Pinoy crowd attacked in droves and made Fernando Poe Jr. movies megahits. The Pinoy crowd wept with Maricel Soriano in 'Soltera,' feasted on Ina Raymundo's dance numbers in 'Burlesk Queen Ngayon' and marveled at the glory of Priscilla Almeda in 'Sutla.' The Filipinos who philosophize their value of existence via their differentiation from the masses will not expose themselves to the meaningless diversions of the Pinoys.

"And yet, these Filipinos would rent VHS tapes or watch Cinema One to see local movies. In the privacy of their homes, where they are not subject to scrutiny, they will let their true viewing habits surface.

"In other words, Filipinos too watch local movies but on their own terms and with a degree of embarrassment and a great amount of condescension. An even greater embarrassment is how and why this has become so. And this is a question we never ask out loud."

Joey Reyes, an outrageous creature by any measure, is also that odd blend of crossover loyalties housed in a body firmly ensconced in midlife. He is an academic who, in his words, "swapped his books on structuralism and linguistic studies of sub rosas with weekly scripts of equally mindboggling episodes of 'Eh Kasi Babae,' 'Palibhasa Lalake' and 'Abangan ang Susunod na Kabanata.' He is a filmmaker of incredibly broad range, counting among his oeuvre hugely popular romantic comedies, sharp and caustic social commentary, teen-age flicks, as well as the script of the 'majestic' 'Oro, Plata, Mata.'"

* * *

REYES also carries the dubious distinction of being "Official National Pornographer" of the dispensation of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, whose predecessor he had helped overthrow, incurring both calluses and skin damage marching with the artist community at Edsa II.

He embodies, in short, all the contradictions of Filipino society: intellectualism and populism, integrity and decadence, social awareness and an eye for the absurd, a sentimental heart and an eyebrow permanently raised with amusement at the foibles of Pinoy life.

At the launching of "Porn Again: Midlife Outtakes and Mistakes," a collection of articles, many of which have been published in this paper's Lifestyle section, Reyes lived up to his billing by having "Tita Glo" introduce the members of her Cabinet, who turned out to be a pair of macho dancers in abbreviated sailor outfits. There is no turning back, I'm afraid, for Joey Reyes, creature of the night.

But for anyone seeking to understand Philippine society at the turn of this century, and trying to make sense of the Pinoy's often bizarre behavior, there can be no better guide than Joey Reyes, social critic and instigator of mayhem, historian of the absurd.

* * *

IF YOU, like most readers, I bet, checked out the index entry for "Lewinsky, Monica" and turned to pp. 465-466 of "Living History" for Hillary Rodham Clinton's account of how her husband finally admitted the truth about the White House intern, then you just ruined a good read.

Despite ample inducements from American media coverage, I resisted the urge to jump into the Lewinsky story and perversely insisted on reading the book from start to finish—in that order. Though portions of "Living History" can have the reader chomping at the bit, especially when Hillary goes into the minutiae of legal issues or the liberal vs. rightist agenda, it's nonetheless a fascinating account of one woman's journey from privileged childhood to nascent revolutionary, from private citizen to political operator to reluctant public figure and now junior senator from New York.

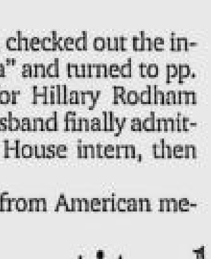
As commentators said of Hillary Rodham Clinton during Bill Clinton's first campaign for the White House, she was a "Rorschach test" for the American public, embodying in her personal history, behavior and opinions the changing role of women in American society. "Everything I said or did—and even what I wore—became a hot button for debate," she wrote of what could only have been a most stressful time.

* * *

INDEED, Hillary Rodham Clinton endured much tougher tests than what the average American first lady—or the average woman—has to undergo. Certainly, the fact that she went through the most personal of crises—the deaths of her father and mother-in-law, the suicide of a good friend, betrayal by her husband—while under the full glare of media scrutiny could only have made such painful situations nearly unbearable. But surprisingly, there's hardly a note of self-pity in this account. Hillary seems to have resigned herself to the fact that no one forced her into hitching her star to that of her husband; or to adopt such a high-profile role in his presidency. So she must take the lumps along with the rewards.

What seems obvious, though, is that Hillary remains deeply in love with Bill, despite the lies he told and the humiliation he put her through, and her all-too real anguish. Certainly, there is an element of calculation in her decision to stay with him in the marriage. But then, doesn't self-interest always figure in every woman's decision to stand by the side of her husband, however flawed he may be?

An act of ingratitude



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IT has always struck me as rather strange that every single town in the country has its own statue of Jose Rizal in the plaza but seldom are there representations of other prominent local heroes. Manila should by now be notorious for having multiple monuments to Bonifacio, sometimes a few meters away from each other. On the other hand, there are no memorials to the Katipuneros or to the guerrillas (check out the list in General Willoughby's "Philippine Resistance in WWII") or to the Battle of Manila. And this mind you is your capital city. Dr. Gregorio Borlaza's "Wartime Diary" chronicles what occurred in the town of Lilio, Laguna, in July 1943 and is a good example, although I have to admit that I do not know whether Lilio has erected memorials to some of these men.

In a public hearing, Captain Okada of the Nagcarlan garrison spoke, mildly at first but more vehemently as he warmed up, about the failure of Filipinos to cooperate with the Japanese. It was translated by a left-handed aide thus: *"Turo na amin dugo, hindi pa kayo kibo, ano na kayo? Hindi ninyo aram ito amin gawa dahir inyo independinsya?"* A few days later the male residents of the town were herded onto the school grounds and from among them 200 were selected as guerrilla suspects.

Captain Okada revealed that they had found a list of guerrillas in their abandoned mountain camp and expected the guilty to surrender within three days. If they didn't, they would not eat for three days.

The third day came and no one surrendered. In the evening, two Filipinos, their heads covered with *pandan* bags and with their hands tied behind them, arrived with a company of soldiers.

At one in the morning Captain Orota ordered the mayor to assemble all the males on the school grounds. The mayor temporized until daybreak. Outside the author's house was heard the peculiar gait of the Japanese soldiers and the terse commands of officers followed by the rattling of sabers. From his window, the writer could see that the exits from the town were guarded and nobody was being allowed to leave. All male residents were ordered to assemble on the school grounds.

When everyone, including the mayor, was present, the interpreter of Captain Okada spoke: *"Noon isang araw sabi sa inyo Kapitan kayo surender sa tatlong araw hindi kaen. Ngayon mahigit na tatlong araw wala pa surender. Kami meron listahan gerilya galling doon bundok. Kaya kayo surender na ngayon at hinde kayo aanohin. Kung kayo hindi surrender patay na yan. Ano, ano, sino surrender? Taas kamay."*

At this point, a man who was intellectually challenged (as they say these days) raised his hand—only to have someone pull it down.

"Ano? Sino ang humira sa kamay doon? Sino yon taas kamay?" When no one answered he continued, *"Hala, surender na kayo. Alam naming kayo na at meron kami listahan. Ano? Talaga wara surender?*

*"Wala po,"*said the people.

The mayor was then asked to speak to the men. *"Mga kababayan, ako'y pinapunta dito upang sabihin sa inyo na kayo'y sumurender na at nang huwag nahihirapan."*

At this point Captain Okada's interpreter, who was called "Kaliwete" by the townspeople behind his back, returned. *"Ano? Hindi pa kayo surrender?"* Again no one spoke.

The mayor was then asked to form a board of prominent citizens who were made to stand in front of the intermediate school building. One by one they had to parade in front of the two *pandan*-covered Filipinos who peeped through holes in the *capiz* windows and pointed out the guerrillas.

Those who had been selected were sent to a room inside the school house while the others were brought to a spot across a stream. More men were dragged into the school grounds: cigarette vendors from San Pablo and Batangas, farmers on their way to market. The author was saved, even if he was on the list, because he simply reversed his name, "Borlaza, Gregorio—del Pilar Street" and the Japanese had the wrong address.

Captain Okada actually apologized for the inconvenience and blamed it on a few bad men. Kaliwete however added: *"Kayo uwi na, yoon kurong, sabi ninyo sa kamaganak, babarik pagkatapos tanong tanong. Pag hindi barik pagkatapos tatro araw, siguro patay na. Huwag na nira intay."*

An hour later, two rows of prisoners tied to each other with abaca rope marched in front of his house guarded by Japanese troops on their way to Nagcarlan.

During the following week, rumors were rife that the men were deprived of food and packed inside a crowded room, while others were tortured. One of them, Sabino Corozo, had burns all over his body, including his private parts. Miraculously he survived. The Maghirang brothers, however, were never heard from again.

The prisoners were required to sign papers confessing they were guerrillas or else they would not be released. Salvador Badiola refused to sign despite all sorts of torture. After a month the "real" Badiola was killed in Calumpang and the Japanese actually admitted their mistake and released Salvador. According to Captain Orota, *"Hiripino busog, hindi masakit katawan, hindi sabi totoo. Hiripino gutom, hindi masakit katawan, sabi conti lamang. Hiripino gutom, masakit katawan, sabi sabi totoo."*

One would think that the time has come to honor those who had suffered for their country to be free.

My driver

YOUNG BLOOD

Mita Andrea A. Navidad

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

FOUR years have passed since that afternoon, but the memory continues to dance in my mind at some odd moments, romanticized by time.

It could have been the rain, the kind that leaves you drenched yet sticky and threatens to suffocate mortals Because of the rain, I was forced to take a taxi, alone fo the first time, from the mall near Edsa to our dorm, a mere three blocks away.

The moment I got into the cab, I caught what I thought to be the driver's dark gaze through the rearview mirror and silently said a prayer as images of women who had been raped and murdered paraded through my mind. But even if his looks appeared to be sinister, the traffic jam and my natural loquaciousness pried my tongue loose from the roof of my mouth. It would turn out to be one of the most thought-provoking conversations I have ever experienced.

At first, we talked about mundane matters. He griped about policemen who barely managed traffic jams. I complained about my heavy school work. But then a sports car slowly went past us, moving in the opposite direction.

For a moment, I was speechless. It struck me as funny that this flashy, new, red but tiny car was packed with seven people, whose ages must have ranged from 1 to 43 There was a harassed-looking mom, a smug-faced dad, and their children looking terribly uncomfortable, with a baby squashed between them.

It was at that moment when my driver turned philosophical. *"Yan,"* he said, as though talking to himself, "buy a sports car as a family car and you'll get what you deserve for your lack of foresight. One should not put image above comfort *kasi.* Look around, the world is already an uncomfortable place as it is."

And so it began. For the next 30 minutes, I was treated to a rare exposition of well-considered ideas, from the standard debate over the existence of aliens to love affairs going sour to the "empty nest syndrome." The issues were so varied that I doubt if the phrase "everything and anything under the sun" can sufficiently describe it.

Amazingly he spoke fluently, whether he was talking in Tagalog or English. Idioms like "feel run down" or "have a time" flowed from his mouth as easily as *"mapait ang loob."* He attributed this to a long stay overseas the previous year, a gift from his children given one month after the youngest graduated from college. It was not in his plans to continue driving taxis upon his return to the Philippines, but boredom compelled him to to go back to this humble calling. Besides, he believed that his brain worked better when he was driving his cab.

At one point, turning to me, he asked if I knew what "discord" meant. Sure, I said, it's the absence of peace. He nodded in a weird motion that looked as if his head were connected to a spring although his movement was jerky.

He asked me if I knew the meaning of "irony." This is too easy, I thought. Remembering "Reality Bites" and Ethan Hawke's line, I quoted, "It is when the actual meaning is a complete opposite of the literal meaning."

Probably he had not seen the movie since he did the spring jerk again, accepting what I said. I rolled my eyes behind his back. But that was the only moment during the entire trip when I felt cleverer than him.

"Can you find the irony in the lives we lead?" he asked.

Whoa. That question almost threw me off. I groped for a response and managed to ask rather meekly, "The entirety of our lives? Everything?"

He nodded once more; I was getting used to the unusual motion. "We are a walking irony," he began. "We continually strive to organize our lives. *Di natin alam, minsan, mas nakakagulo lalo.* That is not the way to live. Whatever happened to letting things be? There are some matters that need not be fixed, you know."

After hearing these words, I was afraid that I would be reduced to spouting cliches like "going with the flow" or "letting the wind take you on its course." But he saved me the effort by continuing: "Why don't we find things that really need fixing and fix them? People with positions sometimes never bother to look at what is really important. That's why we have these government white elephants, *e.*"

I was amazed at how he was connecting ideas. I wanted to contribute my own thoughts, but I remembered the saying that it is better to keep your mouth shut and be taken for an idiot than to open it and erase all doubts. At that instant, at least in my mind, I was thought of as an idiot.

When at last we reached the dorm, the rain had let up a little. I got out and fished out a P50 bill for my fare.

Looking me straight in the eye, he smiled and said: "*Salamat sa pakikinig.* You were raised well. *Iskolar ka pala, hija.* Go out there and shake the world." Then he reached out of the window to shake my hand and drove off.

He left me there, still clutching the P50 bill—a little wet, a little overwhelmed and completely humbled, with all his ideas about nothing in particular running through my brain.

The week that followed, I constantly thought about him, this man of 50-plus years. But as with all things, with the passing of time, I sometimes forget.

I haven't seen my driver (for that's how I will always refer to him in my mind) since then. But I still have his imprint, sometimes as tangible as a red-hot iron brand, sometimes as real as a dream. He struck me as someone with strange but ultimately accurate ideas about events, not unlike Mel Gibson in "Conspiracy Theory," though far less crazy.

Our encounter made me wonder if the shyness or snootiness of passengers or the monotony of driving and the long silences inside an empty cab trigger thoughts that turn into nuggets of wisdom. Or perhaps taxi drivers are just born sensible and driving cabs give them a lot of opportunities to sharpen their minds and use them—for good or evil.

If bartenders are cheap psychiatrists, like they say, taxi drivers can be cheap philosophers too.

Mita Andrea A. Navidad, 19, is a BS Math senior at the University of the Philippines Baguio. She met the driver when she was studying at the Philippine Science High School.

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PPA merely hidden in unbundled electric bills

BY this time, most Meralco consumers have already received and wondered about their new unbundled electric bills. And to our collective surprise, the purchased power adjustment is missing among the items in the new bill!

The full-page ads of Meralco have not explained what happened to the PPA or justified each item in the bill and what they truly mean to power consumers.

The PPA has not been removed. It has been hidden within the generation charge, the transmission charge, the system loss charge, franchise tax and other charges. If the PPA were truly gone, we would have enjoyed a reduction by almost half in our electric bills. Instead most households have received higher bills even for the same electric consumption as the previous month.

Now that they have hidden the PPA, any further increase in purchased power cost will be hidden under the Generation Rate Adjustment Mechanism (Gram). This is the new PPA.

Furthermore, other recovery mechanisms like the Icera (Incremental Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment) will be added to our bill. We should expect these new items in the coming months.

The other "pass-through" charges are also really pass-on costs to consumers. Generation charges are computed with a 60-40 mix of Napocor and Meralco power plants. About 53 percent of this cost is remitted to Meralco IPPs, most of which charge nearly twice per kilowatt-hour than Napocor plants. Meralco therefore earns from the generation charge.

The same is true of the pass-on cost of system loss charges, the metering charge and franchise taxes.

The universal charges, which include many other charges such as the missionary and environmental charge, will also include in the future stranded cost and debt recoveries which amounts to around P200 billion to be collected in 15 to 25 years. Missionary charges are supposed to be for electrification of far-flung barangays. But why are we charged for a job that the government should be doing?

This is also true of environmental charges. Why are we charged for the havoc that the generation plants of Napocor or these IPPs do to the environment? Consumers seem to be the perpetual milking cow of Meralco, Napocor and the IPPs.

Unbundling has increased power rates and it will continue to increase because of the new charges, the passing on of the P200-billion stranded cost and debt recoveries and the eventual reduction of subsidies. All these mean higher electric rates for all.

—GIOVANNI A. TAPANG, Ph.D.,
national chairperson,
Samahan ng Nagtataguyod ng Agham at Teknolohiya para sa Sambayanan (AGHAM), 18-B Matahimik St., Teacher's Village, Quezon City

Road project funds released

THIS has reference to the news item last July 7, entitled "Contractors ask for Malacañang intervention to rush fund release."

Please be informed that the P25 million referred to in the news item is part of the P36 million released by the Department of Budget and Management upon the instructions of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the Cabinet meeting last June 10 at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City to pay both accounts payable (P11 million) and current account (P25 million) to the 55th Engineering Brigade, Philippine Army to ensure the completion of the Palimbang-Kalamansig Road Project in Sultan Kudarat within the year.

The accounts payable due to the Hinterland Contractors Association (HCA) are already included in the DPWH list of accounts payable awaiting release of funds from the DBM.

—BASHIR D. BASUMAN,
undersecretary,
Department of Public Works and Highways, Manila

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'Pahabol'

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IT couldn't be a more deadly combination: Filipino passengers and their cell phones on a Lufthansa flight.

As many readers know, cell phones are supposed to be shut off during a flight because they might interfere with navigation equipment. On Lufthansa flights, even while the planes are on the ground, the flight attendants go around the cabins requesting passengers to shut off their cell phones.

On two flights I had on Lufthansa, I happened to be seated next to Filipinos who were madly dashing off text messages on their cell phones as the stewardesses made their rounds. The stewardesses were firm but gentle, "Sir, turn off your mobile phones, please."

Both times, my seatmates continued texting while muttering something like "Wait a minute ma'm. One more." Both times I saw my seatmates dashing off not "one more" but several messages, much to the annoyance of the German stewardesses, who would return and find the passenger still working on "one more" message.

With one of the passengers, the stewardess actually stood by waiting for my seatmate to turn off his phone but no, he just kept going while the stewardess kept up with her warnings, less gently with each succeeding request, "Shut it off, sir." Mr. Texter was oblivious and continued to text. The stewardesses finally went off in a huff and brought back someone who looked like a pilot, at which point the passenger finally turned off the phone, but muttering something about the stewardess being unreasonable. After all, all he wanted was "one more" message.

There's *pahabol* for you, loosely translated as "Let me catch up." *Pahabol* takes many variations, sometimes amusing, sometimes most annoying, depending on the situation.

When we write letters, instead of doing a P.S. (postscript) as Westerners do, we add *pahabol*, afterthoughts, which is fine, similar to the meaning of P.S.: a postscript.

But our *pahabol* goes beyond a postscript in many cases. *Pahabol* is often related to having lagged behind with tasks—missing deadlines for example—and then negotiating, the "*pa*-suffix" making the word a request, sort of asking someone, "Please allow me to go beyond the deadline."

All kinds of business ventures thrive on, and perpetuate, the *pahabol* syndrome. There are the *sari-sari* stores and their modern equivalents like 7-11, open all hours of the day, all days of the week, allowing you to buy the things you postponed buying.

Smokers can run out of cigarettes at midnight and dash out to get new packs, probably without walking more than a few blocks. Same thing if you wake up famished at midnight and find out you have nothing at home to eat—there are the stores, even some restaurants, open.

Our informal economy is especially dependent on *pahabol*. With cheap labor and low or no rental costs, hundreds and thousands of vendors can ply their trade at all hours of the day, all days of the week. Let's not forget the vendors who weave in and out of traffic lanes selling what you should have bought earlier from a store. It used to be just candies, cigarettes and newspapers but *pahabol* has caught up with the times. Are you stuck in traffic in the middle of Katipunan and find yourself starving, but with no food in the car? Don't worry, there are vendors selling all kinds of food, all the way up to peanuts kept warm with portable gas burners.

Late for your appointment? Horrors, you realize your cell phone's dead because you forgot to charge it. Never mind, *pahabol*, there's a vendor selling cheap fake Nokia chargers.

On the way home, you realize you forgot it's your partner's birthday or your wedding anniversary? Yup, the cigarette vendors sell roses, too.

Transport the Filipino smoker to a Western country and he will find *pahabol* can be disastrous. When I was a student in the Netherlands many years ago, stores used to close promptly at 5 p.m. every day except on Thursday, when they'd stay open till 9 p.m. Sundays most commercial establishments were closed. You had to plan your life carefully, scheduling groceries right after work or classes, or run the risk of finding yourself without food over a weekend.

Here in the Philippines, the *sari-sari*stores and street vendors assure us we can always get something at the last minute, which means we end up not having any sense of a last minute. Time is negotiable, stretchable, because of *pahabol*, spinning off many other ways to manipulate time. Thus, we see the *pahabol*of pedestrians, making a mad dash across the street, and of motorists trying to beat a red light.

We are not alone when it comes to this playing with time. The Indonesians have *jam karet* (literally rubber time) and are even more cavalier about punctuality than we are, people strolling in an hour after an appointed time without too much ado. Our *pahabol* has an element of an apology—living up to the word, we try to look like we're catching our breath, a way of saying, "I did try to make it on time but. . ."

Sadly, *pahabol* always involves haste, and so the work output is often inferior or mediocre. Perhaps in a rural agrarian setting, *pahabol*and *jam karet* are acceptable but in the 21st century, the demands of life—from getting newspapers out each day, to saving the lives of patients in hospitals—depend on getting things done within deadlines, with more time to spare.

* * *

Comments to miguel@ pinoykasi.net

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LEFT VS LEFT

Beltran accuses Rosales of watering down rights compensation bill

By Carlito Pablo

A BILL seeking compensation for victims of human rights abuses during the Marcos regime has sparked a row between two former anti-Marcos activists now serving as party-list legislators in the House of Representatives.

Rep. Crispin Beltran (Bayan Muna) yesterday accused Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales (Akbayan) of having entered into an "unjust, unprincipled compromise" by watering down House Bill No. 4535.

Beltran, a former labor leader, said the bill was being diluted at the House committee on civil, political and human rights, which is chaired by Rosales, to "virtually remove all allusions to the Marcos dictatorship."

By including human rights victims of post-Marcos administrations, the bill absolves the Marcos dictatorship from "its direct hand in the massive spate of human rights violations committed during the martial law years," the Bayan Muna representative said.

Sought for comment, Rosales said the expansion of the bill's coverage was just consistent with the mandate of the 1987 Constitution to provide victims of human rights abuses with compensation.

"The Constitution did not specify and limit compensation to Marcos victims," said Rosales, a former leader of a militant group of teachers.

Rosales described as "very, very false" Beltran's claim that the bill had been watered down to remove references to the Marcos regime.

The Akbayan representative pointed out that HB 4535 still mentioned Marcos state instruments like the now defunct Philippine Constabulary in the human rights violations.

BELTRAN: "Unjust, unprincipled compromise" PDI PHOTO

ROSALES: "Very, very false" PDI PHOTO

Rosales said that the bill was in line with international human rights declarations that any person subjected to rights violations was entitled to the "enforceable right" to compensation.

She also said that the $200 million to be allotted to Marcos victims under the bill would remain "intact" and that claimants against other administrations would have to be compensated from other funding sources.

Beltran, however, said that while he did not oppose the indemnification of victims under post-Marcos administrations, there was a need to pass HB 4535 and compensate the martial law victims.

"Then we can go on to file more legislative measures for the human rights victims of the Aquino, Ramos and Estrada administrations," Beltran said. "Let's first prove that a law for human rights victims of the dictatorship can be passed."

Beltran said it was "impossible (for him) not to take the committee's handling of HB 4535 personally" because he was a victim of human rights violation himself.

"Representative Rosales should prove that she isn't being swayed by the so-called Ilocano bloc in the House and put her foot down on moves to make the bill generic," he said.

Rosales responded: "*Ano ba naman si* Ka Bel? I'm also a victim."

Rosales, a second term representative, chided Beltran, a neophyte legislator, for failing to appreciate the dynamics of the legislative mill.

"The bill might not be passed if it is focused on the Marcos victims," Rosales said.

She said the anti-Marcos measure could be labeled as "class legislation" and its legality questioned before the Supreme Court.

Beltran, however, said that the compensation bill for victims of the Marcos dictatorship did not go against the Constitution, which stipulates that compensation should be given to "human rights victims" and not a specific sector.

"Approving an undiluted measure supporting the claim of the victims is a first step toward that direction," he said.

GMA sets aside ₱8B for Marcos victims

From page A1

She said "we support that bill," referring to House Bill No. 4535. The bill seeks to set aside $200 million, about P10 billion, for the rights victims.

The lawyer of Claimants 1081 cautioned the Marcos human rights victims from rejoicing over Malacañang's announcement that it was setting aside P8 billion for them.

False hopes

Rod Domingo said the government was raising false hopes once more, similar to what transpired during the Estrada administration.

"Even if Malacañang allots (money for the victims), that will never happen because there's a need for legislation," Domingo said.

He stressed that it was not Malacañang but Congress which can amend the agrarian reform law to set aside part of the recovered Marcos loot for the martial law victims.

Domingo pointed out that his group also had an agreement with former President Joseph Estrada, who committed to allot $150 million for the victims. But the Sandiganbayan declared the agreement unconstitutional.

Domingo said he feared that the victims were again being used by the government for publicity. "It's happening again. They're trying to whet the appetite of the claimants (for the money)."

2004 budget

The President said P30 billion would be included in the 2004 budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform, while the P8 billion for Marcos victims would remain in the escrow account of the PNB until a law authorizing the compensation was enacted.

Human rights claimants have urged Ms Macapagal to include the amount in the 2004 budget and to certify as an urgent administration measure HB 4535.

She praised PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac for the major victory won by the government against the Marcoses.

"I would like to congratulate the PCGG because when we first recruited Haydee Yorac over two years ago, it was said that many of the documents had been already pilfered and it was very difficult to pursue the case. But they've gone and we've won major victories in court," Ms Macapagal said.

"In other words, the hard work of two years is beginning to pay off not only there but also in other things like in the (fight against other graft and corruption," she said.

Budget deficit monster

With the major victory, "the budget deficit monster is behind us," Ms Macapagal said.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin was just as ecstatic, calling the ill-gotten wealth "manna from heaven."

"Hopefully there will be more coming," Boncodin said.

The deficit for the first six months of the year hit P79.6 billion, lower than the target of P102.2 billion and below market expectations.

This was a result of improving revenues and cuts in spending, which raised hopes the government could meet its deficit target of P202 billion for this year, or about 4.6 to 4.7 percent of gross domestic product. The country's deficit problem has been blamed largely on inefficient tax collection system and corruption.

Bureau of Treasury

Boncodin said the escrow account should be transferred to the Bureau of Treasury within the year.

"We expect that to be transferred to the Bureau of Treasury as soon as the 15-day appeal period is over. And we expect that it will be transferred to the (Treasury) this year, I do not know when, but definitely it will be this year," Boncodin said.

The President said the eventual release of the escrow account would ensure the funding of the P8-billion budget allocation for the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Boncodin said the government's general fund would have another P8 billion to finance urgent needs of other agencies.

"That is why we are very, very happy about this. As you know, many of the agencies have been complaining (about lack of funds)," she said.

The President said she had given Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan guidelines on how the P30 billion should be disbursed to agrarian reform communities and how the landowners would be paid.

She said the money should be used to build additional schools, specific farm-to-market-roads, irrigation and premium for Philhealth insurance for the ARCs.

With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and Reuters

1,000 left stranded in Bicol

From page A1

morrow, it is forecast to be 210 km west northwest of Aparri, Cagayan or 130 km northwest of Laoag City, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Harurot is expected to induce monsoon rains today and tomorrow over Northern and Central Luzon, including Metro Manila, and can cause widespread flooding and landslides.

Signal No. 2 has been hoisted over Catanduanes and Signal No. 1 over the Samar provinces, Biliran Island, Sorsogon, Albay, Camarines provinces, Southern Quezon (including Polillo Islands), Quirino, Aurora, Isabela and Cagayan.

Because of big waves spawned by the typhoon, the Philippine Coast Guard has ordered the suspension of sea travel in Albay and Sorsogon.

More than 300 passengers bound for Catanduanes were stranded at the Tabaco port in Albay. Some 600 passengers were also stranded at the Matnog port, 325 at the Pilar port and 123 at the Bulan port—all in Sorsogon. These were aside from vehicles being carried by roll-on, roll-off ships from and to these ports.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) yesterday warned of possible lahar flow along the slopes of Mayon Volcano due to heavy rains. It urged residents living near active channels to be on alert and to evacuate to safer places if necessary.

Volcanic materials are most likely to flow into Barangays Quirangay, Bagumbayan and Maninila in Camalig town, and into the villages of Daraga and Sto. Domingo towns at the foot of the volcano, according to Phivolcs.

Pagasa said Northeastern Luzon would experience stormy weather while the rest of Luzon would have rains and occasional gusty winds as Harurot continued its northwestern path from the coast of the Bicol region.

The coast of northeastern Luzon will be dangerous to all forms of sea craft as it will experience rough to very rough seas. The rest of Luzon will have moderate to rough seas dangerous to small vessels.

Pagasa said Metro Manila would have occasional monsoon rains with moderate to occasionally strong winds blowing from the southwest. Manila Bay will be moderate to occasionally rough.

Moderate to occasionally strong winds blowing from the southwest will prevail over the rest of the Visayas and Mindanao, the weather bureau said. These will have moderate to occasionally rough seas.

Northern and Central Luzon will have stormy weather for the next three days while Southern Luzon and the Visayas will experience monsoon rains. Mindanao will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Pagasa said Baguio City would have rains with occasional gusty winds while Cebu and Davao would be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. *With a report from Norman Bordadora in Manila*

ABB chieftain cries foul over WPD arrests

From page A1

Airport in Manila at about 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. They were detained at the WPD headquarters but were released at 3 a.m. Monday after their lawyer interceded.

A WPD source said charges of frustrated murder would be filed today against Lejun de la Cruz and Salazar in connection with the attempted murder of Go, who suffered two gunshot wounds in the face. He is expected to be discharged from the St. Luke's Medical Center within the week.

3 eyewitnesses

The source, who was present at the meeting between the two suspects and WPD officials yesterday afternoon, said the WPD had three eyewitnesses. According to the source, a witness has pointed to Lejun as the gunman while two witnesses have tagged Salazar as the driver of the getaway motorcycle.

"Linking my son and Salazar to the attempted slay of Go is a frame-up. It is farfetched to connect them," De la Cruz said. "They (his son and Salazar) have nothing to do with the assassination attempt on Go. The police are just looking for fall guys in a desperate attempt to show some performance."

De la Cruz said the WPD agents apparently wanted to arrest Salazar for his alleged involvement in an armed encounter with government troops in Nueva Ecija.

"They had only one target, but the problem is they accosted all of us. Then they refused to identify themselves and there was no formal invitation, so we resisted and they pinned us down," De la Cruz told dzBB.

No warrant

He said when he and his two companions reached the WPD headquarters, they found out there was no warrant even for Salazar's arrest. He said police then tried to link his son Lejun to a July 1 ambush of Go, a powerful member of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"My son and Salazar should not have been arrested without their even showing us warrants of arrest, the Cabinet oversight committee is looking into it," he added.

"We need to talk to review the viability of the peace process. They are not respecting our safe conduct passes," said De la Cruz.

De la Cruz holds a safe-conduct pass as a member of a rebel peace panel, said Teresita Deles, chair of a joint committee with the government monitoring the enforcement of the peace agreement.

'Out of place'

"I will already establish that the arrest of Nilo de la Cruz was out of place," Deles said in a television interview.

But she added that she would find out the circumstances of the other arrests.

Arturo Tabara, chair of the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas (RPM-P), said the arrests were a "blatant violation" of the peace agreement.

"We have raised our protest to our counterparts in the government panel," Tabara told the INQUIRER. "The arrest is a desperate attempt by the PNP to find fall guys to cover up for recent blunders."

Tabara said he had filed a protest with Deles and Victor Mayo of the government panel.

The ABB, an urban death squad of the New People's Army, killed over 100 alleged rogue policemen and officials in the late 1980s.

De la Cruz's group later split from the NPA and formed the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-ABB, which reached a preliminary peace agreement with the government in 2000. The RPA-ABB is the armed wing of the RPM-P.

Deles said she hoped the arrests would not jeopardize the peace accord.

"We have been discussing the matter with the RPMP/RPA-ABB leadership and they understand that we are clarifying the matter," she added.

Army captain's body waits in freezer as wife, mom squabble

From page A1

The body of Angeles, who was killed in an encounter with New People's Army rebels in Compostela Valley on June 30, has been in a freezer at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park here since July 14.

Judge Manuel Pastor Jr. of the RTC of Villasis, Pangasinan, issued a temporary restraining order on July 15, directing the widow, Dr. Claudine Marie Peleo-Angeles, not to cremate the remains of her husband, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 2000, until further notice.

Yesterday, the court admitted arguments on the case and is expected to issue a decision today.

Claudine, who is two months pregnant with her and Angeles' first child, took the witness stand and said it was her husband's wish to have his body cremated when he dies. Angeles did not want his body eaten by maggots, she claimed.

But Josie argued that her only son must be buried according to his religious beliefs as a Catholic.

Court petition

On July 11, Josie petitioned the court to stop Claudine from cremating the body. She cited Article 307 of the New Civil Code, which stipulates that religious beliefs should guide the funeral of a deceased relative, provided the deceased person died with no expressed provision about his or her remains.

Pastor said he issued the TRO without going into its merits because of the urgency and nature of the case.

"The need for the issuance of temporary restraining order/writ of preliminary injunction is indispensable to prevent the commission of acts which might be inimical to the interest of the petitioner," the order said.

Angeles' body was put in a freezer as agreed upon by both Claudine and Josie, six days after it was left in a hearse at a corner of the memorial park. It was brought there on July 8 for cremation, but the mother and other relatives of Angeles stopped it.

Libingan ng mga Bayani

Army officials suggested that the body be taken to the Libingan ng mga Bayani at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City for burial.

But the soldier's mother insisted that the body be buried immediately at the Libingan, while his wife asserted that it must be cremated before being buried.

On July 18, the mother asked the court to issue an order for the burial of Angeles in Bautista, Pangasinan.

But Claudine argued that as wife, she had the right to decide on the funeral arrangements as desired by her husband.

"*Ayaw kong kainin ng uod ang katawan ko* (I don't want maggots to eat my body)," Claudine quoted her husband as saying in the presence of a friend.

Josie, however, said this was a "mere casual remark" and "might even be in the form of a joke" and not "expressive of one's wishes on such a serious issue as burial."

Legal right

Claudine, in an interview in Baguio City on July 13, asserted her legal right to seek cremation.

"I have been married to Peter for 10 weeks and three days. I am pregnant with his child ... I had almost lost my child because of all the distress caused by these insensitive and uncaring people (who have massed up on July 8 at a Dagupan City crematorium to prevent the cremation)," she told the INQUIRER.

Desire to be cremated

"Every memory of Peter is precious to me and to my unborn child. Because of this, I will fulfill the wishes of my husband that he expressed to me while he was still alive. Peter explicitly expressed to me his desire to be cremated when he dies," she said in a prepared statement.

Her counsel, lawyer Nellie Olairez, submitted to the court a comment issued by Bishop Carlito Cenzon of the Baguio-Benguet Catholic Vicariate, who said the Catholic Church had no problem with cremation.

Quoting Paragraph 3 of Canon Law 1176, Cenzon said the Church "earnestly recommends that the pious custom of burial be retained but it does not forbid cremation, unless this is chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teachings."

Claudine said she and her husband discussed cremation in May before he returned to his Mindanao assignment.

"We talked about anything under the sun and (cremation) was discussed at the Glorietta Mall on May 23. He didn't like the idea of a body corrupting under the soil. He said, 'Worms, yuck!' I am just fighting for what he wanted," she said. *With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bangkok urges junta to release Suu Kyi

BANGKOK—Thailand urged the military rulers of Burma (Myanmar) on Monday to release detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, but said talk of expelling Burma from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations was premature.

International anger against the military government has mounted since Suu Kyi and two dozens of her followers were detained after a clash between her supporters and a pro-junta youth group on May 30.

"I've stated clearly every time that Myanmar should release her as soon as possible for Myanmar's own sake. We want to see Suu Kyi return home and gradually receive more freedom," Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai told reporters.

Burma has so far shrugged off condemnation of the Nobel peace laureate's detention, including threats of tougher sanctions by the United States and European Union.

Regional analysts say more Asian neighbors are tiring of the behavior of Burma's rulers—especially with Rangoon due to take over the chairmanship of Asean in 2006.

A weekend report quoted Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad as saying Asean may expel Burma as last resort if Suu Kyi was not freed.

Mahathir played a big role in Burma's admission into Asean in 1997, arguing then that Asian-style engagement with the junta would be more appropriate than Western pressure.

But Thailand, fearing harsher sanctions against its neighbor would unleash a flow of economic migrants over the border, has not favored further isolating Burma. *Reuters*

Broader probe of suicide pushed

LONDON—A judge probing the suicide of a defense ministry weapons adviser should also examine the government's use of intelligence to justify war with Iraq, parliamentary critics of the government said Monday.

Microbiologist David Kelly was the source for a disputed British Broadcasting Corp. report citing claims that Prime Minister Tony Blair's office doctored an intelligence dossier on Iraqi weapons to bolster the case for war. On Friday, his body was found near his home in central England. One of his wrists had been slashed.

Lord Hutton, one of the Law Lords who form Britain's highest court of appeal, on Monday said his inquiry into the suicide would investigate the "circumstances surrounding the death of Dr. Kelly."

"It will be for me to decide, as I think right within my terms of reference, the matters which should be the subject of my investigation," Hutton said, without elaborating.

It was unclear whether Hutton intended to meet demands for a broader inquiry into the government's handling of intelligence on Iraqi weapons.

Opposition Conservative Party lawmaker Oliver Letwin called for the inquiry to examine whether Blair's office exaggerated the threat posed by Iraqi weapons.

"While there certainly does need to be an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding Dr. Kelly's death, there are very large numbers of questions which all center on the issue of whether the public can trust what the government tells it and which relate to the information given to parliament and the public during the lead-up to war in Iraq," Letwin told BBC radio.

Robin Cook, a former foreign secretary, said it would be impossible for Hutton to get to the bottom of Kelly's death without wading into the wider question of the government's case for war.

Cook, who quit the Cabinet in protest to the war, said the government should "accept the inevitable" and authorize the broader probe.

"The pity is that it did not do so a couple of months ago when it first became evident that it could not find any real weapons of mass destruction," Cook wrote in The Independent newspaper.

Hutton did not give a date for the start of his investigation, which he said he would largely conduct in public. He added that the government had pledged full cooperation.

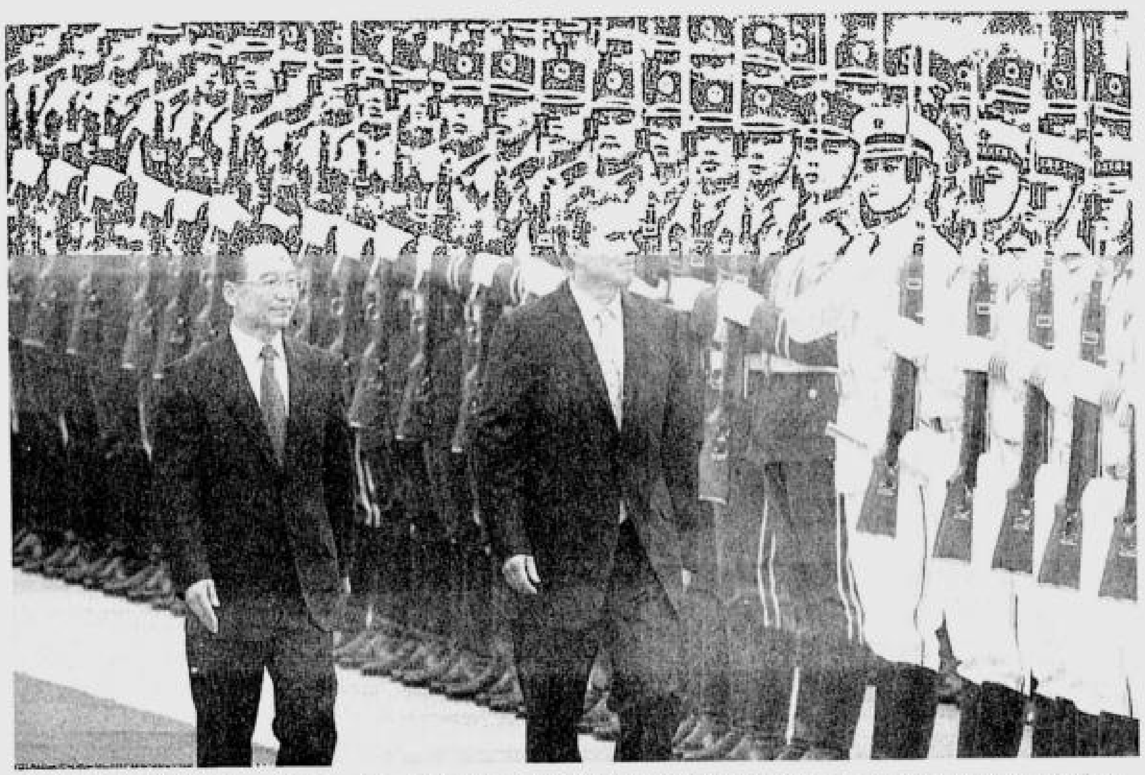
Kelly's body was found three days after he testified to a parliamentary committee about his unauthorized encounter with BBC reporter Andrew Gilligan, who on May 29 quoted an anonymous source as saying officials had "sexed up" evidence about Iraqi weapons to justify war.

Gilligan said the officials had insisted on publishing a claim that Saddam Hussein could deploy some chemical and biological weapons within 45 minutes, despite intelligence experts' doubts. The journalist later pointed to Alastair Campbell, Blair's communications director, as the key figure in rewriting the dossier. Campbell vehemently denied it.

Politicians across the ideological spectrum have accused the BBC of inaccurately reporting Kelly's comments, citing his testimony that he did not recognize the journalist's most damaging claims as his own. But Gilligan has said he did not misquote or misrepresent Kelly's remarks.

Another Labor rebel, former International Development Secretary Clare Short, accused the government of attacking the BBC in order to distract attention from questions about why it went to war.

"It's all part of a distraction from the real issues, how did we get to war in Iraq?" Short told BBC radio. "How come there was an imminent threat and yet there were no weapons of mass destruction?" *AP*



VISITING British Prime Minister Tony Blair (right) walks beside Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao past a review of an honor guard on July 21 in Beijing during a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People. AFP

PM lauds handling of HK row

BEIJING—British Prime Minister Tony Blair Monday praised China's handling of "recent problems in Hong Kong," a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said Monday.

"Blair said the British side praised the Chinese side's way of dealing with recent problems in Hong Kong and hoped to find a way to maintain Hong Kong's stability," foreign ministry spokesperson Kong Quansaid of Blair's meeting with Premier Wen Jiabao.

"Blair said the UK was willing to make efforts in this respect."

Chinese officials had previously indicated the political crisis in Hong Kong would be off the open agenda.

The British premier also heaped praise on Hong Kong's development under the "one country, two systems" since Britain handed Hong Kong back to China in 1997.

"Blair said the 'one country, two systems' is a new thing. It was possible that big problems would occur in the implementation but in the reality different things happened," said Kong, adding that Britain reaffirmed its "One China" policy.

"Blair said that in the past six years, the implementation of the 'one country, two systems' blueprint in Hong Kong has achieved very good results which is comforting to people."

Blair is due in Hong Kong Tuesday and will meet with Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa whose popularity is sagging, much like the British leader, who is embroiled in the worst trial of his career at home.

On the sixth anniversary of Hong Kong's handover on July 1, some 500,000 people took to the streets of the territory demanding the resignation of Tung and an end to a Beijing-backed subversion law that was seen as eroding Hong Kong's long-held freedoms.

The massive protest rocked the government and led to Tung watering it down before shelving it.

Compounding Tung's woes were the resignations of two top Cabinet ministers in what has become the worst political crisis to hit the territory.

Tung was chosen as Hong Kong's highest leader in an election arranged by Beijing before the handover and in which Tung was the sole candidate. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Another GI killed

BAGHDAD—An American soldier and his Iraqi interpreter were cut down in a grenade and small arms attack in north Baghdad Monday morning, the US military reported. The dead soldier was from the 1st Armored Division. It brought to 152 the number of US troops killed in action since the March 20 start of war—five more than during the 1991 Gulf War. *AP*

Nuke report denied

SEOUL—The United States, China and North Korea will likely hold talks in Beijing "quite soon" on the communist North's nuclear weapons programs, a senior South Korean official said Monday. South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun also dismissed a report that North Korea has built another plutonium production plant. The report had fueled concern that the communist state was accelerating efforts to make nuclear bombs. *AP*

Monrovia calm

MONROVIA—Liberia's war-battered capital Monrovia was relatively calm early Monday after government troops pushed back rebels trying to seize two key bridges, as the United States ordered extra troops into the city. The intensity of mortar and gunfire died down at night in the city center as troops loyal to embattled President Charles Taylor repulsed a rebel advance on the strategic Gabriel Tucker and Old bridges leading to downtown Monrovia. The fighting had shifted to the key port area—on the northern side of the city—which had been captured by the rebels on Saturday, Liberian Defense Minister Daniel Chea said, vowing to defend the capital "street by street." *AFP*

New Bali trial

BALI, Indonesia—The only suspect to show remorse for the carnage of last year's deadly Bali bombings went on trial Monday, accused of planning and carrying out the attacks that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists. Ali Imron, the fourth key suspect to face justice over the Oct. 12 bombings, appeared in court in a Western-style suit and tie, and not the Islamic attire worn at earlier hearings for the other main accused—Imron's two older brothers Amrozi and Mukhlas and alleged mastermind Imam Samudra. Also unlike the other suspects—who punctuated their court appearances with theatric shouts of religious slogans and claims that the blasts were part of a holy war against the enemies of Islam—Imron sat quietly as charges were read against him. *AP*

Idi Amin in coma

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia—Former Ugandan President Idi Amin, exiled in Saudi Arabia after an eight-year rule marked by breathtaking brutality, was in a coma and in deteriorating condition Monday, a hospital official said. The official said late Sunday that Amin's condition had stabilized. But Monday morning, the official said, "his condition has deteriorated again." He would not elaborate. *AP*

Mobile phone cops

BEIJING—A Chinese province says it has launched an effort to catch people who send mobile phone messages with lewd jokes, insults and other material deemed socially harmful. The crackdown in Liaoning province, announced Monday by state media, extends official attempts to police new communications technology even as the communist government promotes use of the Internet and mobile phones. Beijing already screens e-mail, censors online chatrooms and blocks access to foreign websites considered subversive. But mobile phone messaging— known as short-message service, or SMS—is a newer technology and the government is still developing ways to control it. *AP*

Ministers set free

SAO TOME, Sao Tome and Principe—Seven government ministers, including Prime Minister Maria das Neves, detained in last week's bloodless coup were freed after a meeting between coup leaders and international envoys. The ministers, who were detained in military installations, will be kept under house arrest, according to a statement read late Sunday after the talks. "They shouldn't try to pressure the international community so as to allow the transparency and impartiality of the talks," it said. *AP*

Archer released

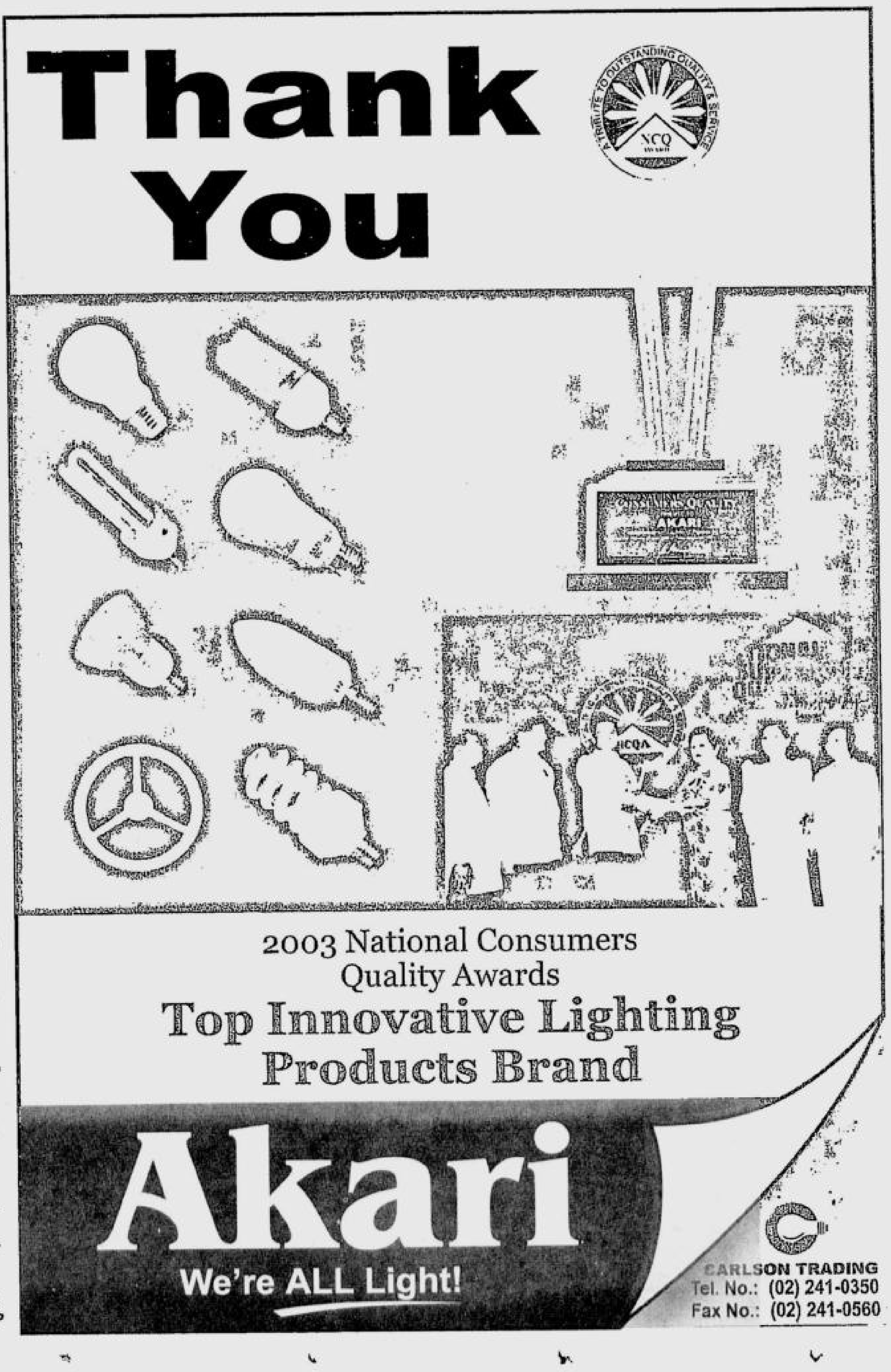
LONDON—Best-selling author Jeffrey Archer walked out of prison Monday, paroled after serving two years and two days of his four-year sentence for perjury and perverting the course of justice. Lord Archer, 63, had been convicted of lying during his successful 1987 libel action against the Daily Star newspaper, which claimed he had hired a prostitute. Archer glowered at the dozens of journalists standing outside Hollesley Bay Open Prison in eastern England, but said nothing. *AP*

Plane crash in Kenya

MOUNT KENYA, Kenya—A team of Kenyan investigators reached the site Monday where a chartered aircraft slammed into Mount Kenya, killing three generations of an American family and two South African pilots, officials said. The twin-engine Fairchild turboprop was carrying the 12 US tourists to a game reserve when it hit Point Lenana, a peak of Africa's second-highest mountain, as a cloudy sky was beginning to clear before sunset Saturday, said Bongo Woodley, senior Kenya Wildlife Service warden in charge of Mount Kenya National Park. *AP*

No criminal charges

BOSTON—No criminal charges will be filed against any Church officials in the Archdiocese of Boston for allowing sexually abusive priests to remain in parish work, a spokesperson for the state attorney general's office said. Attorney General Thomas Reilly's report, based in part on an investigation by the state grand jury he convened, documents what happened in the archdiocese and suggests changes to prevent future abuse, according to WBZ-TV of Boston, which cited an unidentified source who has reviewed the document. *AP*



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Lapid wages war on GMA quarry order

MS MACAPAGAL swearing in Lapid as Pampanga governor, a memoir of relations being strained now because of millions of pesos that are being generated from taxes from quarrying

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The provincial government's fight to regain control over the quarry industry has shaped up into a legal battle, further straining relations between the province's governor and President Macapagal-Arroyo, who hails from Pampanga.

On Friday, Gov. Manuel Lapid filed a special civil action for declaratory relief to nullify Executive Order 224 of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The case was raffled off to branch 48 of the regional trial court on Monday.

EO 224, signed by the President on July 4, authorized the regional director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to act as the team leader of the task force that would supervise the quarry industry in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales.

The governors, including Lapid, were designated only as the task force's deputy team leaders.

Revoke

Lapid took the legal recourse even as he asked the President to revoke the order. His four-page appeal, sent also on Friday, was coursed through Joaquin Lagonera, senior deputy executive secretary.

Lapid on Monday declined to confirm whether he was leaving the administration party Lakas because of this development on the quarry controversy.

This was the second time that Lapid had faced the same issue. The first was during the time of former President Joseph Estrada who, through Proclamation No. 66, ordered the DENR's Natural Resources Development Corp. to take over the quarry industry in February 1999. Lapid won the case in court in December 2001.

Like he did against Proclamation 66, Lapid called EO 224 as "clearly illegal, invalid and unconstitutional."

10 reasons

In his seven-page petition, he cited 10 reasons why he was waging a legal battle against Ms Macapagal's order.

The reasons were mostly hinged on the issue of local autonomy and on why the order violated the provisions of the Constitution, Local Government Code of 1991 and Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

Lapid urged the court to declare that he has the "exclusive power and prerogative to control, regulate and supervise sand and gravel/quarry operations and to issue the corresponding permits or licenses," in accordance with Section 138 of the Local Government Code of 1991.

He also asked the court to declare the provincial treasurer as the "sole authority to collect all taxes, fees and charges," as allowed by the code.

Provincial legal officer Filmer Abrajano on Monday clarified that the petition was "not directed against the President but against the order."

Named respondents in the case were Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and the DENR.

Accounting

Under the order, the task force was required to render an accounting of revenues to the natural resources and environment secretary.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan has yet to issue a resolution to support Lapid's legal move.

Board Member Joseller Guiao, chair of the committee on rules, said the board was not made aware of the actions that Lapid had taken on the issue.

EO 224 came two weeks after the board began an inquiry into the income generated from quarrying since the provincial government regained control of the industry from the NRDC in December 2001.

In last Wednesday's regular session, provincial treasurer Jovito Sabado gave no official report but said the provincial government earned P24 million last year.

The board initially estimated that the provincial government would have earned an average of P9 million monthly from a minimum of 1,000 trucks that haul sand from Pampanga daily. Each truck of sand is levied a tax of P300. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

NPA says GMA provincial trips 'political gimmicks'

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—New People's Army (NPA) spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal belittled as "cheap political gimmick" the recent trip of President Macapagal-Arroyo to Eastern Visayas.

In an e-mail to the INQUIRER, Rosal said the visits made by the President in the so-called "guerrilla zones" in Leyte and Eastern Samar "supposedly to know what their problems were and why they were turning to the NPA was laughable."

"If she really wants to hear what the problems are, she should have resumed peace negotiations long ago, where the basic problems of the people were being raised by the National Democratic Front," Rosal said in the statement.

Rosal said the President was "too blinded by her own arrogance to ever realize that it is her regime that is driving the people to join the NPA."

He said the people support and join the underground movement because the NPA upholds and fights for their interests.

"As long as the desire of millions of peasants for land is not addressed and the people's basic problems are not resolved, no amount of gimmickry or even dole-outs can fool the people into surrendering their revolutionary struggle," he added.

He said these visits would fail to deceive the masses and would not win votes for her in 2004 elections. He was referring to the alleged plan of the President to run for president in 2004 elections.

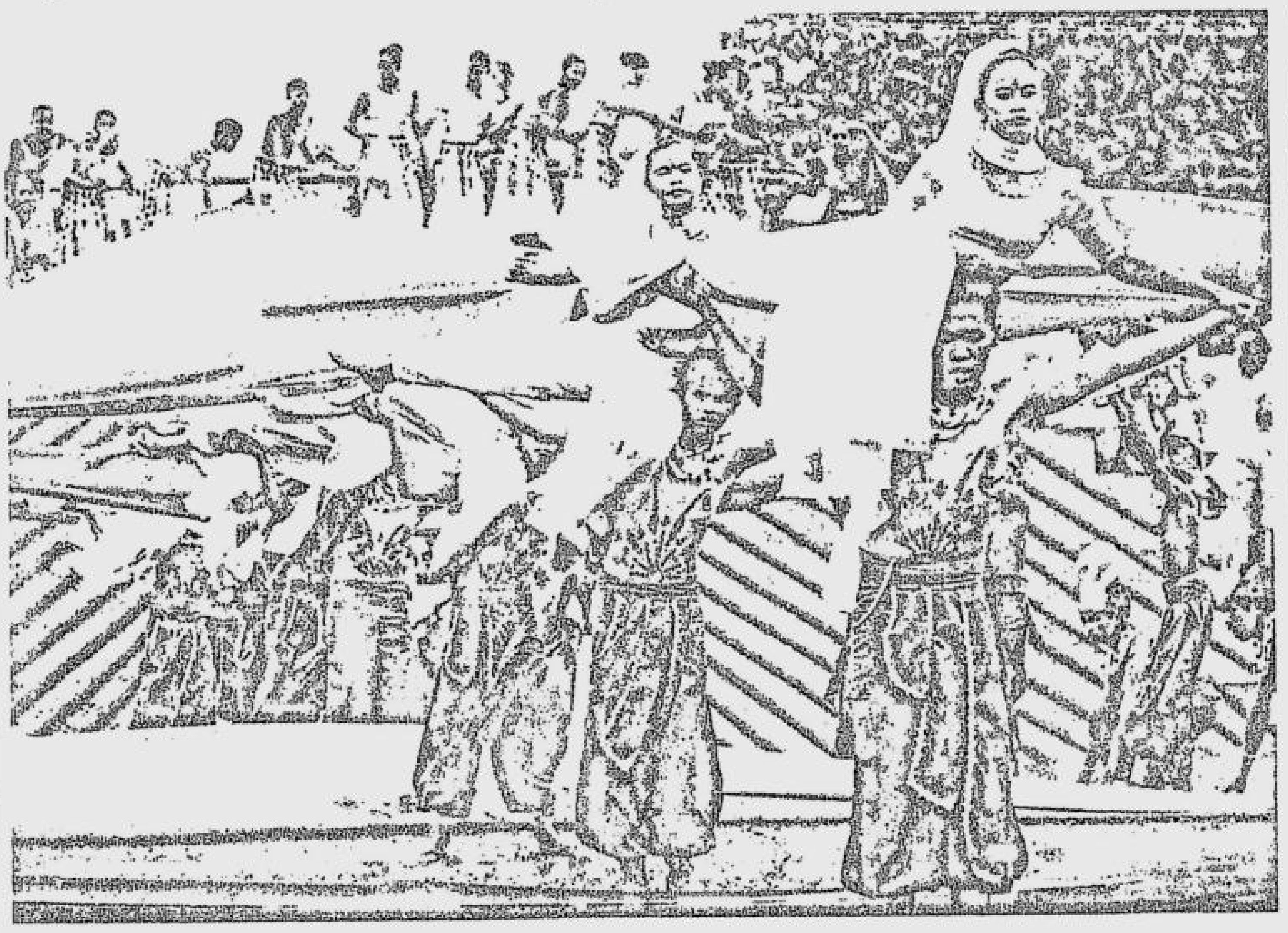
Ms Macapagal went to Leyte and Eastern Samar from July 16 to 18.

She launched in Can-avid town, Eastern Samar the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDDS), an anti-poverty program of her administration.

Aside from Borongan and Can-avid towns, the municipalities of Maslog, Balangiga, Jipapad and San Policarpo were identified to be beneficiaries of the program.

In the next three years of the program's implementation, the national government earmarked a total of P72 million to be distributed to these municipalities.

Except for Borongan, these towns were beset with insurgency problems.



TONEE DESPOJO

SANDUGO
Dancers from the Central Visayas State College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Technology of Tagbilaran City take part in making the Sandugo Festival 2003 more colorful.

8 rebs captured in Agusan raids

BUTUAN CITY—At least eight suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels, including four women, were captured in two separate raids in the hinter villages of Buenavista, Agusan del Norte over the weekend.

Col. Juanito Cabayao, brigade commander of the Army's 402nd Infantry brigade, said six of the captives were still being held for questioning by agents of the Army's intelligence unit.

"As a matter of standard procedure, they are under interrogation," he told the INQUIRER.

On Saturday afternoon, members of the Scout Ranger and paramilitary Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit captured six rebels while on foot patrol in Barangay Ulabe.

The Army identified them as Dangga Castanos, Ongie Mansaginda and Mimi Dalumdong.

Three of those arrested are still teenagers.

But Insp. Quirino Baugbog, police chief of Buenavista town, said the rebels' capture came without a single shot fired because the "captives" were set to surrender to local police and government officials.

"Because of hardships in the mountain, the rebels wanted to surrender," he said.

In another incident on Sunday dawn, soldiers penetrated a rebel lair in a nearby village and clashed with about 30 rebels. *Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Grenades damage car store, bus, snarl traffic in Iloilo City

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Two unidentified suspects hurled two fragmentation grenades at a car store here yesterday, damaging the store and a parked passenger bus.

No one was injured in the grenade-throwing at the Kia Motors-Iloilo showroom along the national highway in Barangay Tagbac, Jaro District around 2:45 a.m.

One grenade failed to explode and was detonated by members of the bomb disposal team of the Philippine National Police at 7:25 a.m.

The blast shattered five glass windows of one of two passenger buses of the Philippine Transport Company (Philtranco) parked near the showroom. Grenade shrapnel also tore holes at the right side of the bus.

In radio interviews, bus driver Rudy Abetria said he was sleeping inside the bus, when the explosion occurred. The other bus parked at the store's right side did not incur any damage.

The Philtranco buses are among the units used to ferry passengers plying the Strong Republic Nautical Highway aboard roll-on-roll off (Roro) boats.

They were scheduled to leave for Cubao yesterday morning passing by Caticlan in Aklan.

SPO3 Virgilio de los Reyes, investigator of the Jaro police station, said witnesses saw two suspects on a green-colored motorcycle slowing down in front of the store moments before the explosion. He said they failed to identify the suspects because it was dark.

Delos Reyes said they were trying to determine the target of the attack. He said it looked like the suspects threw the grenades between the bus and the showroom.

"We don't know if our store was the target," Zoilo de la Serna, general manager of the store, said.

De la Serna said the explosion damaged six thick glass panels of their showroom. Seven vehicles on display were damaged slightly, he said.

Traffic was stalled for minutes along the national highway connecting Iloilo City and the northern towns of Iloilo as police blocked traffic to allow the bomb disposal team to detonate the unexploded grenade.

They succeeded in detonating the grenade after three attempts.

Endangered turtles nest in urban Davao City

DAVAO CITY—Hawksbill turtles, one of the world's endangered sea species, have found a home in this urban center, particularly in the populated coastal area of Punta Dumalag in Matina District.

Until Saturday last week, not a single city official thought that hawksbill turtles (Eretmochelys imbricata), although known to be aggressive, would still find the coastlines of the village suitable for nesting.

Punta Dumalag, which is part of the Davao Gulf area, is a bustling community of fishers, the major threat to the existence of marine life, and fish traders.

The nesting places in Dumalag came to the knowledge of city officials, when a resident, Bobby Omin, approached Ernesto Sta. Cruz, consultant for the city's artificial coral reef project in the area, on Saturday.

Omin told Sta. Cruz the activities relating to the project might disturb the nesting grounds of hawksbill turtles. He said for eight years already, he knew that their village was being frequented by female turtles which dig holes in the sand where they burrow to lay eggs.

Omin said because of his desire to protect the eggs, he kept his discovery from other residents.

Councilor Leonardo Avila said the discovery of the nesting grounds would not deter the implementation of the artificial reef project in the village. He said the project site is far enough from the nesting grounds to disturb the turtles' activities.

But Avila agreed that Punta Dumalag should be declared a protected area to shield the turtles and its hatchlings from harm.

"First we will come out with measures that are most urgent and that is information and education drive," Avila said.

Hawksbill turtles, locally known as pawikan, are a hot commodity because of their meat and eggs, although a ban on catching the turtles had been in place a long time ago.

He said he already asked the Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (BFARMC) to guard the area and ensure that it would be restricted.

Avila said he was also set to meet with Alfonso Aboitiz of the Davao Light and Power Company (DLPC), whose family owns the nesting area, so that proper measures could be taken to safeguard the turtles and their eggs.

He said he would also seek the help of the World Wildlife Fund - Philippines (WWF) about the discovery. *Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Curfew on minors imposed in Cotabato

COTABATO CITY—Next month, children below 18 years old must have to be at home to avoid arrest, as a curfew for minors here will already take effect.

The Sangguniang Panlungsod (SP) on Tuesday unanimously approved the ordinance banning minors from roaming around the area from 10:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m.

Vice Mayor Japal Guiani Jr., who presides over the SP, said they decided to impose the curfew "to safeguard the youth against the influence of illegal drug peddlers and other street crimes."

Guiani said Mayor Muslimin Sema has yet to sign the measure, but he was sure the executive would approve it.

The ordinance would be published first in at least two local newspapers with general circulation, before it would take effect.

Guiani said the ordinance was being endorsed by the majority of the officials in the city's 37 barangays. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

CELEBRATION OF LIFE EDWIN BACASMAS

No lack of food, nutrition, medical attention, safe shelter or even the constant fear of bullets raining on their not-so-safe havens could deprive these boys and girls of the joys of childhood in an evacuation center for war refugees in Pikit, Cotabato.

2 customs execs sacked for extortion, sting job

By Suzzane B. Salva
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—For making a warrantless search on a container van and for extorting money, two Bureau of Customs officials formerly assigned to Dumaguete City were ordered dismissed from service by the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas.

The Visayas Ombudsman found former Dumaguete Sub-Port Collector Ramon Anquilan and Dumaguete's Customs intelligence officer Francis Alindogan guilty of grave misconduct. Anquilan was recently named as chief of assessment in the BOC office in Cebu.

A third respondent, customs police officer Jose Dayot, was suspended for six months since it has not been established that he had prior knowledge to extort money from store owner Elizabeth Cabauatan.

Cabauatan filed the complaint against the three last year. She said Alindogan's group went to her store in Dumaguete near midnight of July 11, 2002 and demanded to be allowed in because they wanted to examine the container van, containing various store commodities that had just arrived from Cebu City.

Since the owners were not around and it was already midnight, the house helpers refused the officials entry. As a result 17 seals containing the warning "Open not under the penalty of the law" were posted at the store and gate of the warehouse owned by Cabauatan.

The three came back the following day and inspected the van despite the owner's objections.

Cabauatan said shortly after the inspection, Alindogan demanded P120,000 in order to "settle quietly" the "problem."

She said she protested and repeatedly explained that the van was inspected and cleared by the customs office in Cebu City. She also presented 11 documents for the cargo.

But Alindogan instead went on to reduce his demand to P50,000 that, she said, made it very clear to her that the primary objective of the customs officials was to extort money from her.

In their joint counter-affidavit, Anquilan said on July 5, 2002 he ordered Alindogan and Dayot to inspect Cabautan's cargo because of reports that she was allegedly shipping shotguns and ammunition to the country.

Alindogan said it was Cabauatan who offered them P6,000 and later P10,000 after initially resisting the search of the van. The search was finally conducted but no guns or ammunition were found in the van.

Bello sees peace with Reds in 6 months

DAVAO CITY—Former Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III said the government was optimistic it would reach a final peace agreement with the Communist Party of the Philippines early next year.

Bello, government chief negotiator with the communist rebels and their leaders, said despite continuing clashes between guerrillas and government soldiers, which tend to hinder the peace process, the government has set a time frame of six months for a final peace agreement with the rebels.

"That (time frame) is (more or less) realistic. We give each (of the) issues two months (to be resolved)," Bello told reporters on Thursday.

Bello said even the National Democratic Front (NDF), which has been representing the CPP in the peace process, also wants the immediate resumption of the peace process that aims to end Asia's longest running insurgency.

He said depending on the availability of the Norwegian government, which continues to host the talks, the peace process could resume later this month or by August.

"We will try to meet end of July or within August. There are still issues, which we need to resolve to speed up the negotiations," Bello said.

The chief negotiator also said some changes would be made in the old framework to fast track the peace process.

Bello admitted that he failed to fully discuss the government's draft of the final peace agreement with his counterpart because of recent events.

The NDF had rejected that peace draft.

Luis Jalandoni, chair of the NDF panel, said when formal negotiations resume, they expected the government to fully implement the provisions of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and the International Human Rights Law, set up the joint monitoring committee and work for the improvement of the country's human rights situation.

"It is also expected to start and advance the negotiations on social and economic reforms within the next few months," Jalandoni told participants of a peace conference via phone from his base in the Netherlands.

Bello said recent developments such as the demand to remove Jose Ma. Sison and the New People's Army from the terror lists of the United States and the European Union, and the recent redeployment of government troops to areas where the NPA guerrillas are active, would not affect the peace talks.

But Jalandoni maintained it was necessary for the government to work for the removal of Sison and the NPA from the terror list. *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BELLO

Vice mayor turns self in to face sex offense case

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Vice Mayor John Elizaga surrendered to a local court here and posted bail before a warrant for his arrest was issued after he was charged with acts of lasciviousness.

The case stemmed from a sexual harassment case that Leah Daba, daughter of Councilor Annie Daba, filed against Elizaga before the Office of the Ombudsman in Mindanao last year. The Ombudsman, however, recommended filing acts of lasciviousness charges against Elizaga.

Lawyer Dale Bryan Mordeno, Daba's legal counsel, told the INQUIRER that Elizaga made a wise decision to surrender as his arrest "would have been the talk of the town."

"He (Elizaga) also spared the court the hassle of delivering the warrant," Mordeno said.

Lawyer Alejandro Jose Pallugna, Elizaga's counsel, said after posting bail, they also filed the motion for reinvestigation before the Ombudsman. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Local gov't execs linked to illegal fishing

BOSTON, Davao Oriental—A number of local government officials here operates fishing vessels using destructive methods such as cyanide and dynamite fishing, the provincial chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said.

But Alfeo Piloton declined to identify the erring officials, saying he already submitted a list of the operators to provincial police director Supt. Catalino Cuy.

He said the local officials have vigorously worked for the release of their workers who were earlier arrested for using illegal fishing methods.

"They were able to go out of jail through the help of local government officials who are operators of illegal fishing," Piloton said.

He said the involvement of the government officials in illegal fishing was the main reason why he sought the help of the police.

"We need to stop these local government officials from (further) abusing their power. I have already submitted to the police provincial director the list of local officials in this town who are engaged in illegal fishing," Piloton said.

He said they were gathering more documents to pin down the erring officials.

"We will definitely file criminal charges against these officials once we completed the gathering of evidence against them," Piloton said.

Meanwhile, Piloton said his office had succeeded in fighting for the continued implementation of a provincial ordinance banning the use of air compressors in spear fishing.

"We won the battle against fishing operators who sought the abolition of the ordinance. Provincial board members have agree with me that such kind of fishing will lead to the further destruction of our marine resources," Piloton told the INQUIRER. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Solon urges more IPPs for electricity in Mindanao

ILIGAN CITY—Lanao del Norte Rep. Alipio Badelles urged the Department of Energy (DOE) to construct more generating plants in Mindanao to address the projected shortage of power on the island.

Badelles warned that unless new sources were constructed, Mindanao would experience power problems starting next year. The power crisis, he said, was projected to become full-blown in 2006 or 2007.

He said the problem could only be solved if government would allow the entry of more Independent Power Producers (IPPs) such as the company building the controversial coal-fired power plant in Misamis Oriental.

The Northern Mindanao Power Corp. (NMPC), an IPP, said based on its analysis, "Mindanao will be short of power 2-4 years from now."

Joseph Nocos, NMPC senior officer, told reporters that with the rapid development in Mindanao, peak power demand could reach to about 1,300 megawatts by 2006.

Officials of the government-run National Transmission Corp. said they could readily address Mindanao's immediate power needs but with the massive development and the entry of big industries, a shortage of electricity is still possible.

The National Power Corp. has an installed capacity of 1,525 MW a year, mostly from its hydroelectric plants. *Jeffrey P. Maningo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Resort, resto owners on Boracay demand land titles

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan—Resort and restaurant owners on this island are demanding that they be issued titles to the parcels of land they have been occupying for years.

Dionisio Salme, president of the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI), said majority of the resort owners do not have titles and only have tax declarations as proofs of ownership of their lands.

The BFI groups around 70 owners of resorts, restaurants and other business establishments on the island-resort.

"We all want titles because this will offer us security of ownership," said Salme, who has been operating a bar and resort since 1985.

Private individuals are barred from having land titles by a presidential proclamation issued by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Under Proclamation No. 1801 signed on Nov. 10, 1978, several islands and coves, including Boracay, were declared as tourist zones and marine reserves under the administration and control of the Philippine Tourism Authority.

The lands were categorized as public-owned and the government has the prerogative to manage and use their resources.

But resort owners are questioning the proclamation.

They have thrown their support to a bill in Congress, seeking to declare certain areas on the island as alienable and disposable.

Authored by Rep. Gabrielle Calizo of the lone district of Aklan, House Bill No. 5779 is now being deliberated on by the House committee on natural resources.

Calizo said the bill answers the "long clamor" of resort owners for security of ownership.

She said the lack of land titles is discouraging more investments on the island.

The lawmaker said the areas already occupied by business establishments especially those in front of beaches will be the priority areas to be declared as alienable and disposable.

The bill proposes to designate areas for tourism and for private ownership and development.

Calizo said this would help spur the development of the island and encourage the private sector to pour investments.

She said the land titles could be used by the resort owners as collateral for loans for development projects in the designated areas.

ROUNDUP

Religious group charged

LUCENA CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources filed criminal charges against a religious group in Barangay Concepcion, Sariaya for alleged violation of Section 20 of Repulic Act No. 7586 or Nipas Law for building an alleged illegal structure inside the protected area of Mt. Banahaw. Community environment and natural resources officer Jose Elmer Bascos identified the religious group as "Divine Endeavors Organization," formerly based in Dolores town. Bascos said the DENR monitoring team found the group constructing a prayer house in the area.
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Another pusher slain

DAVAO CITY—Killings continue in this city once known as the most livable city in the country. An alleged drug pusher was shot dead Saturday night in Nangkaan Village in Matina Aplaya. Police identified the victim only as Oming, the 58th person summarily executed by motorcycle-riding hit men believed to be members of the shadowy Davao Death Squad since January. On Friday, an unidentified young man was also found dead in Purok 3, Barangay Langub in Maa District. Mayor Rodrigo Duterte was to meet church leaders on Wednesday for a dialogue on the drug-related killings. The Coalition Against Summary Executions, a group of lawyers, church leaders and cause-oriented groups, was recently created to help stop the vigilante killings. Militant groups have also started a silent protest against the extra-judicial killings.
Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Ex-village official slain

COTABATO CITY—Suspected members of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group killed George Lumabao of Barangay Gaunan, M'lang, North Cotabato, a former village official, on Wednesday. Chief Insp. Rodeo Labio, M'lang police chief, said the suspects, armed with Garand and Armalite rifles, stormed Lumabao's house while the victim and his family were asleep. Labio said the suspects dragged Lumabao out of the house and started firing, while his wife and children pleaded for help. He said they were looking into reports that Lumabao's execution could be linked to his efforts, as a military asset, against the Pentagon's plans in North Cotabato.
Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Village guard shot dead

BACOLOD CITY—A barangay official accompanying Army soldiers was hit in the leg and died from blood loss after an encounter Tuesday between suspected members of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbo ng Bayan (RHB) and government forces in Barangay Camansi, Kabankalan City. Police said the slain official, Willy Medel, 27, of Camansi, was with a group of village guards who joined soldiers from the 61st Infantry Battalion sent to the village to verify reports of armed men in the area. Medel was hit in the initial burst of gunfire from the RHB guerrillas, a group that split with the New People's Army.
Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Anti-PPA campaign

DUMAGUETE CITY—More than 10,000 persons have signed a petition initiated by the Dumaguete Diocesan Social Action Center (DSAC) that called for the abolition of the Power Purchased Adjustment (PPA). Vicky Elumir, DSAC program coordinator, said the number was expected to increase as soon as all the diocese's 44 parishes submit the signatures. The signature drive, which was started in March, would wind up this month
Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 435 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Tax execs say they're victims of trial by publicity

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Salazar's voice broke several times as he defended himself against the DOF's accusations of unexplained wealth.

He presented to the media the business registration for Phoenix Printing Phils., a family-owned business, which the DOF's internal affairs office said was unregistered and operating without a permit.

The DOF's internal affairs group—the Central Management Information Office—said Salazar did not declare major assets, including a big house and lot in Tungko, Novaliches. He had a declared net worth of P3.8 million.

"The printing company has assets but I did not declare it because the corporation has an identity of its own. The company has two or three pieces of property in San Jose del Monte and it owns the Tungko property. It is not as if these properties are in the high-scale subdivisions," said Salazar.

Golf memberships

The DOF said Sayuno did not declare a house and lot in Ayala, Alabang, 12 luxury vehicles and four memberships in expensive golf and country clubs. His declared net worth was P3.3 million.

"The assets and amenities I now live on are hardly in the magnitude they are made to appear, and are products of diligent work and conjugal efforts to provide comfort for my family. Those who know me will attest I did not enter the revenue service a pauper," said Sayuno in a faxed statement.

Abella, with a net worth of P8.5 million, did not declare a P10-million property in Xavierville, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, the DOF said.

Abella said he had always declared his other incomes that he received from teaching taxation at the University of the Philippines College of Law, as well as from his farm.

Among Abella's assets are five subdivision lots in Novaliches and the Strike Eagle Farm in Norzagaray, Bulacan, with a total value of at least P11 million.

"I wish the Xavierville property is mine. If they had done their homework, they would know who owns it. I welcome this opportunity to refute the wrongdoings imputed against us. I would defend my case and present evidence at the proper place and time. We are being tried by publicity," said Abella.

A TV report last night said Abella was merely renting the Xavierville property.

The BIR official added that former Commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chato had offered him her assistance.

Solid evidence

Finance Assistant Secretary Emmanuel Bonoan, however, insisted that the evidence his office had gathered against the officials were a product of a systematic and careful investigation.

"It is our moral duty not to file whimsical cases against our fellow government workers. We would not drag innocent persons into these cases. Morally and legally, we are justified in filing these cases. We are confident that we have strong cases against them and we also expect that they would put up a good fight," said Bonoan.

The Ombudsman's fact-finding bureau would determine the merit of the cases which the DOF filed yesterday.

Bonoan said that in the case filed in May against several BIR employees who falsified public records, the Ombudsman ordered preventive suspension for one of the named respondents in less than a month.

"The cases we filed (yesterday) are a test case of our ongoing efforts to restore credibility and stamp out corruption in the revenue collecting agencies," said the DOF official.

Bonoan explained that most of the cases filed yesterday were related to unexplained wealth, adding the government intended to confiscate the assets it deemed to be ill-acquired.

If found guilty, the officials would also be dismissed from office, would be stripped off any retirement benefits and would be perpetually disqualified from public office.

Bonoan added the respondents were also criminally liable for other cases like the nonfiling of documents or misdeclaration of assets. The penalty, in these cases, would include imprisonment.

"The charges are false, we would face any accuser, and we will answer all the charges at the proper forum. I had resigned from the bureau so that investigations, if any, could proceed without any possible doubt of our influencing the process," said Sayuno.

Customs official

Meanwhile, the customs warehousing chief who failed the finance department's lifestyle check has been ordered relieved.

Bureau of Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo said he issued the relief order yesterday morning right after being informed that Manuel Valencia had been able to amass more than $3.8 million in cash, five Paranaque lots and a Cavite rice field worth more than P1.5 million.

"I issued a customs personnel order relieving him of his duties and responsibilities. I have designated his assistant as officer-in-charge of the garments and textile manufacturing bonded warehouse division," Bernardo said.

The move, he added, was made to allow a "speedy and impartial investigation" into the case.

Asked how the official was able to amass such a huge sum despite his P21,217 monthly salary, Bernardo said that this was what he wants to find out.

"We are waiting for a copy of the case filed by the Department of Finance before the Ombudsman—which made the lifestyle check—to determine how he was able to amass such wealth which is not commensurate to his compensation . . . We will only know if there are others if the DOF releases more of its findings," he added.

The lifestyle checks, Bernardo said, would continue and the Bureau of Customs will cooperate with the investigation.

For now, Bernardo said that Valencia was simply relieved as only the Ombudsman can issue a suspension order.

Bernardo said that he was unable to talk to Valencia yesterday.

Valencia, an officemate said, was present yesterday but was not available for an interview because he was in a meeting. *With a report from Martin Marfil*

3 BIR men charged . . .

From page A1

(for their unexplained wealth); the Code of Conduct for Public Officials (for failure to file accurate statements of assets, liabilities and net worth); and the Revised Penal Code (for falsification of documents).

"It is the government's responsibility to ensure that every peso collected goes to the government and not to the pockets of some corrupt officials," said Assistant Finance Secretary Emmanuel Bonoan.

Bonoan said it took seven months for the finance department to gather evidence of corruption against the four, whose assets including dollar accounts and luxury vehicles far exceeded their salaries.

Palace initiative

PAGC Chair Dario Rama set the 45-day timetable in an INQUIRER interview yesterday, where he praised the Department of Finance for filing the graft charges.

"I'm happy that things are moving ... especially since the lifestyle check initiative came from the PAGC," he said.

Rama said the PAGC was now conducting a fact-finding investigation on Abella, Salazar and Sayuno for the "administrative side" of their graft cases.

According to Jose de Jesus, director of the Ombudsman's Evaluation and Preliminary Investigation Bureau, graft investigators handling an "uncomplicated case" should ideally come out with a resolution "after 60 to 90 days" from the day the respondent files a counter-affidavit.

More complicated cases requiring clarificatory hearings usually take up to "120 days" to be resolved, he said.

But these timetables merely serve as "guidelines and (are) not mandatory," De Jesus said.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo agreed that PAGC's administrative proceedings are decidedly faster that criminal investigations undertaken by his agency.

"It's always possible. *Mas mabilis kasi sila* (They're really faster than us)," he said.

The PAGC, an office created by the Macapagal administration to go after erring presidential appointees, has the power to suspend or dismiss such officials. Rama said the three BIR executives concerned fall under the commission's jurisdiction. The BIR and the Bureau of Customs are attached agencies under the finance department.

Ms Macapagal said the relief and filing of anti-graft charges against the 4 officials was a "great moment in our fight against graft and corruption."

She recalled her commitment in her 2002 State of the Nation Address to make the BIR and BOC the showcase in the government's fight against corruption.

Ms Macapagal said the crackdown on corruption is also expected to improve collection efforts in the country's main revenue generating agencies, allowing the administration to narrow down the budget deficit this year. "I think the budget deficit monster is behind us now," she said.

The DOF had previously filed charges against three BIR officials (two revenue district officers and one assistant regional director) for falsification of their ages and qualification standards. The Ombudsman has since suspended one of the accused: Assistant Cagayan Director Aguinaldo Miravalles.

Congress reaction

In Congress, the principal sponsors of a proposed law abolishing the Bureau of Internal Revenue urged the President to continue the government's lifestyle check.

Cibac party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva and Marikina City Rep. Del de Guzman said it was time the government cracked the whip on suspected corrupt officials.

The two, authors of House Bill No. 5465 which aims to replace the BIR with the National Revenue Authority, said more cases of unexplained wealth could be unearthed if the lifestyle check continued.

"When we went around the country this (legislative) break to ask for support for NRA, one of the most persistent questions was about the seriousness of the government in reforming tax collection," said Villanueva.

During the last committee hearing on the bill, De Guzman said that the BIR Employees Association was lobbying for a 100-percent absorption of current BIR personnel into the NRA.

He said the proposal was "ridiculous" as it defeated the purpose of reforming tax administration.

Because of this, the association branded the two congressmen as anti-labor.

"With the filing of graft and corruption cases against top BIR officials, I feel like we have been vindicated of what they said was our very hard stance," Villanueva said.

De Guzman said that the filing of graft charges against the top BIR officials would further encourage them to push for the passage of the NRA measure.

"Before, some people were asking us about our motives in pushing for the passage of our bill. Now we are asking them, what is your motive for opposing such reforms?" the two congressmen said. *With a report from Cynthia Balana; AP*

Spy vs spy . . .

From page A1

Two officers of the Naval Intelligence and Security Force (NISF) were caught casing and taking video footage of Matillano's house and cars in Antipolo City on Sunday afternoon.

An angry Matillano personally arrested the two, who later confessed that they had been sent by Capt. Oscalito Mapalo of the Anti-Crime Task Force to conduct "counterintelligence" operations against him.

One of the officers, identified only as Petty Officer 3 Sequenia, showed a text message containing three license plate numbers of vehicles registered under Matillano's name.

This, Matillano said, showed that the casing incident was no accident but was well-planned.

A check with Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon, Navy flag officer in command, showed that Mapalo had informed the NISF that the getaway vehicle of Al-Ghozi and two suspected Abu Sayyaf kidnappers in escaping from Camp Crame last week belonged to Matillano, according to the CIDG chief.

"It was a legitimate operation," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said, adding that the surveillance operation was part of the military's support role in the hunt for Al-Ghozi.

"Somebody gave them a license plate number of a car allegedly connected with the escape of Al-Ghozi and they traced it to the home of Matillano," Abaya said in an ambush interview after a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo.

He, however, did not discount the possibility that the plate number could have been provided by someone who wanted to "mislead the investigation."

Abaya brushed off speculations that the military conducted the operation to outdo the police in the search for Al-Ghozi. "Of course not. We always employ intelligence fusion in our operations," he said.

In a press conference, Matillano said he found that Mapalo had been "communicating with a certain political leader." He did not elaborate.

Matillano said Sunday's incident could have been part of efforts by some sectors to "muddle" his investigation.

The "dubious strategy," he said, was the "rude" accusation contained in a "white paper" that he had masterminded Al-Ghozi's escape, purportedly to unseat Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. as Philippine National Police chief.

"I have no ambition to be the PNP chief and more so undermine him so I could replace him," he told reporters. "There are other senior officers who are more qualified than I am. I'm contented being the CIDG chief."

Abaya ordered an investigation of the surveillance operation "to ferret out the truth before I can make any statement or a decision."

The arrested Navy officers were transferred to their mother unit after undergoing interrogation at the CIDG headquarters in Quezon City.

Matillano said he would file charges against them. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

It's official: Police colonel is prime . . .

From page A1

admitted his presence in the area.

Galban claimed he returned to his office at the IG compound at around 3 a.m. on July 14 because he forgot to switch off his computer when he left at around 1:30 a.m.

He denied driving Al-Ghozi and Abu Sayyaf bandits Abdulmukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal out of the compound.

Matillano said only a fool would buy Galban's excuse, especially after the officer flunked a lie detector test.

Galban was with his driver, PO1 Nathaniel Natanawan, and PO2 Mary Grace Oblimar on board a light brown Toyota Revo when he returned to the IG building.

The vehicle is now in the custody of the PNP Crime Laboratory.

Matillano's subordinate at the CIDG, Senior Supt. Don Montenegro, told him during the interview that this was the vehicle they believed Galban had used to drive the fugitives from detention.

Asked in the statement why he was at the IG on a Sunday and in the wee hours at that, Galban claimed that he had to check on the progress of the debriefing conducted on two "subjects."

Galban, who claimed that he reported back to the IG around three hours after the escape on July 14, said he also usually worked on "Saturdays, Sundays and holidays."

Lacson link?

Despite naming Galban as the prime suspect, Matillano was very careful about linking the official to his former superiors in the Philippine National Police.

Galban was already the Filo chief when Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Matillano's former classmate and long time nemesis, assumed the top PNP post.

Lacson's former aide, fugitive Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, was then deputy chief of the IG which is the head unit of the Filo.

Both Galban and Aquino were then under Director Julius Yarcia Jr., former director for intelligence.

Matillano said he would summon Yarcia for questioning.

But he consistently refused to link Lacson to the issue, noting that doing so would provide an opening to the political opposition to muddle the investigation.

"I don't want this to come from me in case (Lacson) is really involved," he said. "So far, what I'm saying are only the facts and there's no evidence linking him to the escape."

What appears very likely, he said, was that the escape was meant to embarrass President Macapagal-Arroyo during the visit of Australian Prime Minister John Howard last week.

The fugitives and their handlers at IG knew about the defective jail gates that enabled the inmates to escape as early as last April, he noted.

"Why did they have to wait for three months to make their escape?" Matillano asked.

"Were they afraid that the defect in the jail gate might be discovered and fixed? Obviously, they set it up (the escape) for the visit."

Matillano said the fugitives were assisted in their escape by SPO3 Ben Campo, who reported the escape more than six hours later.

Before he was sacked for the escape, Campo headed the IG's alert team which should have sealed Camp Crame and run after the fugitives immediately after the escape.

NBI probe

The National Bureau of Investigation has formed a 15-man team to help the independent commission investigating the escape.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the NBI team would be headed by NBI Deputy Director for Intelligence Anthony Liongson and NBI background investigation division chief Mamerto Espartero.

"The PNP is doing its own investigation. We will not influence it in any way," Wycoco said.

"We will start from ground zero, with no preconceived notion. We will submit our report (to the independent commission) based only on what we found," he added.

This developed as the independent commission met yesterday at the Department of Justice to set up the organizational support structure.

Former Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez, chair of the commission, said the body will try to finish the investigation within the 30-day period the President gave them.

"That is the deadline given by the President. We will try to comply with that if it is humanly possible to do so," Ordoñez said.

"We'll try to work beyond office hours if necessary," he added.

Ordoñez said the commission had decided to make the DOJ their base of operations so that there will be a close coordination with the NBI.

He said the commission also contacted the Philippine National Police leadership to send a representative but no one came yesterday.

Lawyer Miguel Varela, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president emeritus, also failed to attend the meeting.

Besides Ordoñez and Wycoco, the other officials who attended the meeting were Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong, Senior State Prosecutor Leah T. Armamento, State Prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullon, Mamerto and Liongson.

Armamento, Fadullon and State Prosecutor Ruben Carretas will act as the commission's secretariat.

"We have not discussed anything pertaining to the substance of the case. We are simply gathered for an organization meeting," Ordoñez said.

The commission will have another meeting tomorrow to discuss how to proceed with the investigation.

Other developments

Al-Ghozi's arraignment will have to wait at least another month.

Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 54 Acting Presiding Judge Lucila Purrunganan was on sick leave yesterday.

"That's primarily why the arraignment was postponed (to Aug. 20), and not because Al-Ghozi escaped," said Clerk of Court Aimee Santos-Arago.

In Congress, an administration representative closely identified with the draft-Eduardo Cojuangco campaign said Al-Ghozi's escape would reverse the recently improved ratings of the President's.

Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said that unless Al-Ghozi was accounted for, his jailbreak might even "defuse the clamor for President Macapagal to seek another term in 2004."

"It (Al-Ghozi escape) would definitely have a telling impact on the President's popularity come next survey," Nograles said.

In Payatas district in Quezon City, police rounded up dozens of men in a vacant lot, in a search for Al-Ghozi, but found no trace of the country's most wanted fugitive.

"We received an intelligence report that Al-Ghozi was hiding there, but it turned out negative, they did not find him there," Senior Supt. Enrique Robles told The Associated Press. The men were lectured on the need to cooperate with police, he said. *With reports from Philip Tubeza, Tarra Quismundo, AP*

Entire Intelligence Group command sacked

By Christian V. Esguerra

BETTER late than never.

A week after three top terrorists escaped right under their noses, Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. sacked the "whole command group" of the Intelligence Group.

Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, director for intelligence, was appointed officer in charge of the IG.

Senior Supt. Romeo Ricardo, who took over Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza as IG director after the escape, will now focus on the PNP's primary anti-terrorism task force "Sanlahi."

Besides the reorganization, Ebdane also formed an "anti-corruption" task group that would conduct lifestyle checks on PNP officials who could have freed Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and company in exchange for a hefty amount of money.

Director Jose Lalisan, task force chief, said the first to be investigated are the six IG officials and jail guards previously relieved because of the escape.

They include Supt. Reuben Galban, erstwhile chief of the IG's Foreign Intelligence Liaison Office who allegedly drove the fugitives out of Camp Crame.

The twin moves were part of a 10-point strategy Ebdane formulated in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's order for him to recapture the fugitives soon.

Ebdane, the chief hunter, named Lomibao as his deputy in the massive campaign to smoke out the high-profile terrorists.

Another strategy is the filing of treason charges against PNP officials who could have collaborated with the fugitives.

Noting that treason was applicable only in times of war, de Leon argued that the government is currently involved in the global war against terrorism.

The move, he said, was approved by PNP lawyers.

FOUR DIGIT
1 7 2 3
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
8 5 5

MEGALOTTO 6/45
4 23 39 40 44 45

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

METRO-WIDE TRANSPORT STRIKE

Classes suspended, thousands stranded

IT WAS an unexpected holiday for many students in Manila after a metro-wide jeepney strike forced many schools to suspend classes yesterday.

School authorities in Manila suspended classes at around 10 a.m. as students and teachers were among thousands of commuters stranded when members of at least five major jeepney organizations in Metro Manila refused to ply their routes starting 6 a.m.

The Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide (Piston) said the strike was a "success."

Most affected by the strike were Manila, Makati, Marikina City, San Juan, Rizal and Quezon City, where as much as 90 percent of the jeepney transport system was reportedly paralyzed.

Many drivers who tried to ply their routes were jeered and stopped by other drivers in San Juan, Cubao in Quezon City, and C.M. Recto and Dapitan Street in Manila.

The cities of Pasig and Mandaluyong were however not as affected, according to the Eastern Police District Traffic Group.

Most of the drivers with routes within the Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela areas also did not join the strike.

However, about 75 percent of the jeepneys that plied the Monumento-Manila route joined the "tigil-pasada," said Sr. Insp. Jojo de Guzman, detachment commander of the Bonifacio Monument Circle.

Most of the striking drivers returned to their routes at around 4 p.m.

Manila Division of City Schools superintendent Dr. Luisa Quiñones told principals of elementary and high schools to decide whether to suspend classes or not, according to assistant superintendent Isabelita de Jesus

San Beda College and the Centro Escolar University also suspended their classes.

To address the situation, the governments of Manila and Marikina, as well as the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, deployed vehicles to ferry stranded passengers.

The Manila Department of Public Services and City Engineer's office sent out trucks and vans which gave free rides along España, Taft, and Magsaysay avenues.

Marikina information officer Carmelita Lorenzo said the city's buses ferried passengers to the LRT station in Santolan, Pasig, or to Cubao.

"The strike has effectively shut down 80 percent of the public transportation system (in Marikina)," Supt. Romeo Abaring, city deputy chief of police, said.

If the strike had any good effect, it was the easing of traffic in the areas where the strike was most felt, according to MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

"We prepared for the worst," he said, adding that the MMDA called up all bus operators in Metro Manila to put their bus reserves "on alert."

Transport groups led by the Philippine Confederation of Drivers and Operators—Alliance of Concerned Transport Organizations said they would go back on strike after three weeks if their concerns were not addressed.

Among their concerns are the high registration fees, the insistence of mayors to issue their own traffic tickets and the planned phase out of jeepneys. *Tarra Quismundo, Leila Salavarria, Luige del Puerto, Margaux Ortiz and Edson Tandoc Jr.*

SCENES FROM A STRIKE

Clockwise from top: Striking jeepney drivers block the vehicle of another driver who refuses to join them on CM Recto in Manila; Tricycle drivers make a killing transporting stranded passengers; commuters count the hours as they wait for a ride on Pasong Tamo, Makati. ERIK ARAZAS

Making a killing

By Luige del Puerto

A BANE to many but a boon to some.

That was the case as hundreds of passengers dug deeper into their pockets after a jeepney strike forced them to take the more expensive FX cabs, taxis and even tricycles just to get to work, school or home.

Tricycle driver Rommel Santos said they charged passengers up to P50 for special trips within the city of Marikina. A "special trip" could be a three-kilometer ride.

"Otherwise, it is just P10 each," Santos said. A ride usually costs P5 per passenger.

According to him, they were also "allowed" to go beyond their registered routes.

Rene Velasquez a taxi driver from Pasay said many of his colleagues earned P500 to P1,000 extra.

For FX taxi drivers like Al Tan of Cainta, it was easier to get passengers than usual although their earnings were "more or less the same" at P1,000 to P1,500.

"Traffic was also lighter especially in the morning when no jeepneys plied Makati," said Tan, who drives the Cainta-Ayala route. *With report from Margaux Ortiz*

Cory Aquino should forgive and forget

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE COUNTRY is now getting the backlash of the escape of Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and two others from the heavily guarded Camp Crame jail.

Kawawa naman tayo. Other countries look at us as a nation of corrupt citizens.

Not that it's untrue. It hurts when fellow Filipinos say we're a corrupt nation; but it hurts much, much more when foreigners say we're a graft-ridden nation.

* * *

Why? Because when a Filipino travels abroad, people in the countries he visits thinks that he's a thief like the officials in his country.

A couple of years ago, as I entered a shop in Hong Kong the female salesclerk asked if I was a Filipino. When I said yes, she followed me around the shop, watching my every action. The other customers, who were Hong Kong residents, didn't get the kind of attention I had.

Our notoriety as a nation precedes the Filipino tourist abroad.

* * *

The editorials in major Australian newspapers pointed to graft and corruption in government as the reason for al-Ghozi's escape.

Al-Ghozi's group, the Jemaah Islamiah, was responsible for the bombing last year in Bali, Indonesia that killed many vacationing Australian tourists. That's the reason for Australia's interest in al-Ghozi's detention.

To top it all, al-Ghozi escaped during the visit to the country of Australian Prime Minister John Howard. The Australian premier and President Macapagal-Arroyo held talks on measures to counter terrorism. Australia promised A$5 million in aid.

* * *

Australian newspapers think that the Philippines can't defeat terrorism unless it defeats corruption in government.

How true! But did the obvious truth have to come from foreigners?

It's like parents seeing their misbehaving child being spanked by a neighbor.

* * *

But the country can learn from the sermon of the Sydney Morning Herald:

"This was no daring escape (al-Ghozi's). In Catholic-majority Philippines, it is not radical Islam but personal profit that has most probably been behind the escape.

"If so, it is a reminder that as long as the security forces and the bureaucracy of the Philippines and other nations in the region remain vulnerable to corruption, no amount of aid for specialist police training can guarantee the anti-terrorist effort."

Enough said.

* * *

The editorial seemed to have hit the nail in the head when it said that "personal profit" was behind the escape of al-Ghozi.

There's no other motive in the escape of al-Ghozi except personal profit.

Its beneficiary or beneficiaries can enjoy the huge sum of money given to him/them in exchange for the freedom of the international terrorist.

* * *

So, in order that the beneficiary or beneficiaries would not be able to enjoy the huge sum, he/they should be eliminated.

This may sound like a crazy idea, the government claiming to be run by law, but if that incident in Camp Crame is repeated many times over, nobody will respect the government anymore.

If the government wants to regain respect from the citizens, it should punish harshly and expeditiously its officials or employees who spit upon it.

There is no other way but to shoot those guards and their officers who let al-Ghozi loose.

* * *

Many years ago, the evidence custodian of the dreaded Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISG) was executed by his own comrades after he was found to have sold evidence to people accused in court.

The evidence would have sent the accused to prison. The result was that many of the people that the MISG charged in court for grave offenses were acquitted because the unit could not produce the evidence.

After that, MISG evidence custodians no longer sold or stole the evidence entrusted to them.

* * *

After 20 years, the assassination of her husband former Senator Ninoy is still fresh in the memory of former President Cory Aquino.

She says she can only forgive the soldiers convicted of the assassination of her husband if they pointed to the mastermind.

Sus, Ma'am, why can't you forgive and forget? *Di ba saradong Katoliko ka?*

* * *

If not for your husband's assassination you wouldn't have become president. The presidency was a big, big jump from being a housewife.

You should look at Ninoy's assassination in that light, Ma'am.

Forget the past and look forward to your future in heaven.

TWO suspected robbers lie dead on the ground after they allegedly tried to shoot it out with Marikina policemen. RANDY HORMILLOSA

4 die in shootout

By Luige del Puerto

FOUR men were allegedly killed in a shootout in front of a police precinct in Marikina City at dawn yesterday.

Police said that one of those who were killed was cab driver Emiliano Elalne, whose Romcat Taxi was taken over by three armed men.

The police have yet to reveal the identities of the suspects who were killed in the encounter in front of Police Precinct 6 on J.P. Rizal Street, Concepcion Uno.

Supt. Tyrone Masigon, Marikina Police deputy chief for operations, said they are still trying to find out whether Elalne was with the armed men or was forced to drive for them.

Masigon said that before the incident, a taxi driver went to Precinct 6 and told the policemen there that armed men tried to board his taxi near the Petron gas station in Concepcion Uno at around 2 a.m.

Masigon said the driver was able to escape the armed men, report to the police, and leave the precinct.

Insp. Elmer Guevarra, P03 Amelito Lopez, and SP03 Precio Bricia then set up a road block in front of the station, Masigon said.

Bricia said that when he saw a car coming, he waved his flashlight for it to stop. Then the lawmen heard gunshots, prompting the three to fire at the vehicle. The windows of the taxi were shattered. The police precinct also sustained bullet holes.

Police recovered from the crime scene a shotgun, two .38-caliber revolvers with live rounds, spent M-16 rifle shells, and a bag of marijuana inside the taxi.

METROBRIEFS

Former rebel killed

FORMER New People's Army squad leader Allan Arguelles was shot to death yesterday in Antipolo City. SP03 German Bayona said police received a call an hour after the incident from a man who claimed responsibility for the killing, saying it was the NPA that had ordered the hit on Arguelles. The victim was waiting for a ride on Sumulong Highway when three men came up and shot him. Police said a woman had acted as lookout for the gunmen. *Luige del Puerto*

Snagged for shabu

REY-AN APOSTOL, 22, approached a man early morning yesterday because he wanted to buy shabu. But the man turned out to be P02 Enrique Ferrer, who arrested Apostol for possession of illegal drugs and for assaulting the policeman, said PO2 Bobby Egera. Ferrer was outside his house in Barangay Tugatog, Quezon City, chatting with neighbors when Apostol approached his group looking for shabu. Ferrer immediately told Apostol he was a policeman. But the suspect refused to believe him and elbowed him in the chest. Ferrer arrested Apostol and found a sachet of shabu on the suspect.

Edson Tandoc Jr.

Nabbed in drug bust

SOUTHERN Police District lawmen rounded up 12 suspected drug users and dealers over the weekend. The suspects were identified as Ronel Solibel, 21, Ariel Espiritu, 36, Arceo Del Rosario, 40, Alejandro Lanuza, 33, Rogelio Ignacio, Catherine De Luna, Tomas Gako, 32, Rey Brian Tabamo, 20, Saturnino Sombrio, 28, Arnold Helito, 30, James Raquel, 20, and Vicky Pilla, 37. The suspects are now facing charges of violation of the Republic Act 9165, or the Revised Dangerous Drugs Act. *Alcuin Papa*

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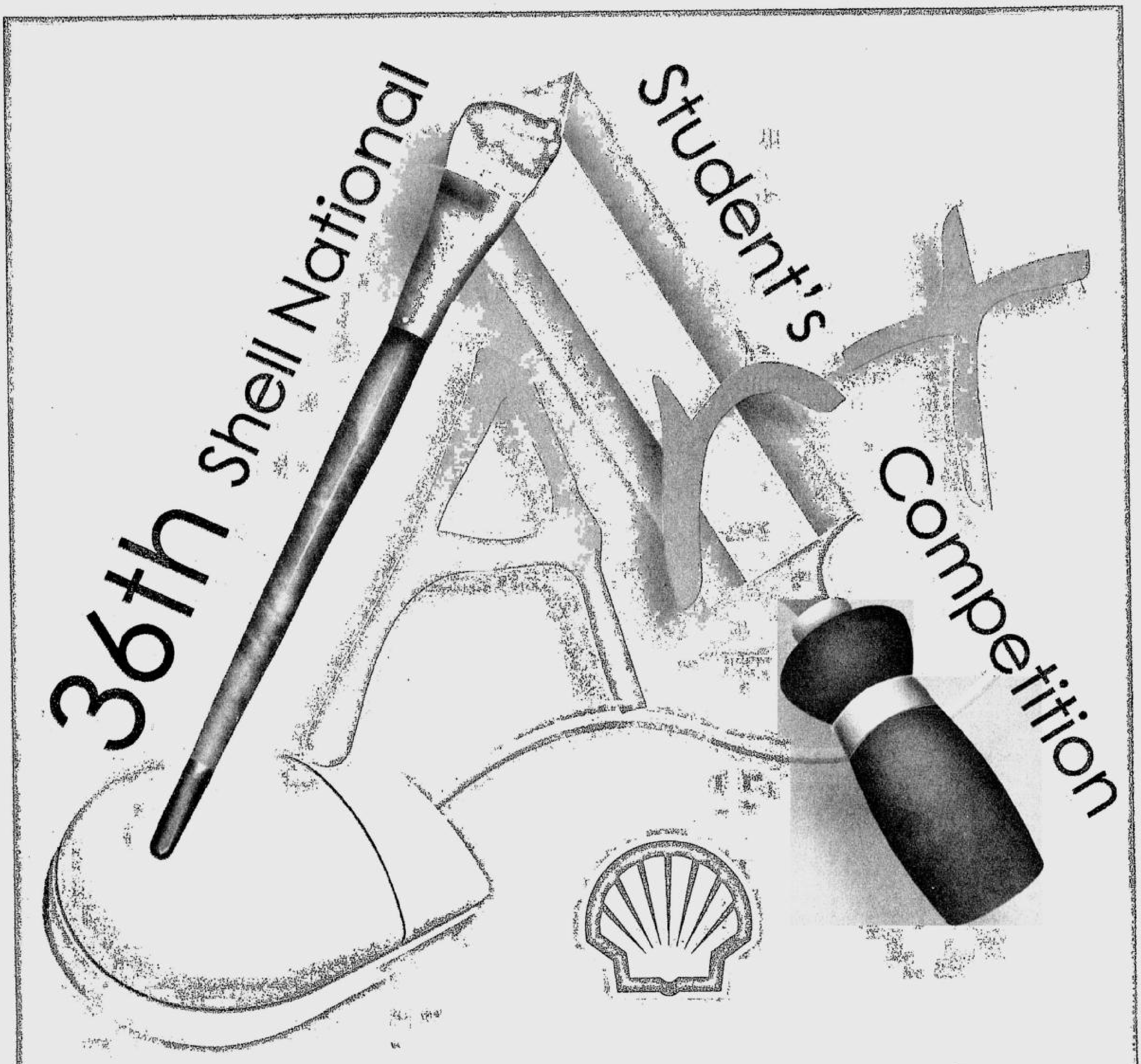

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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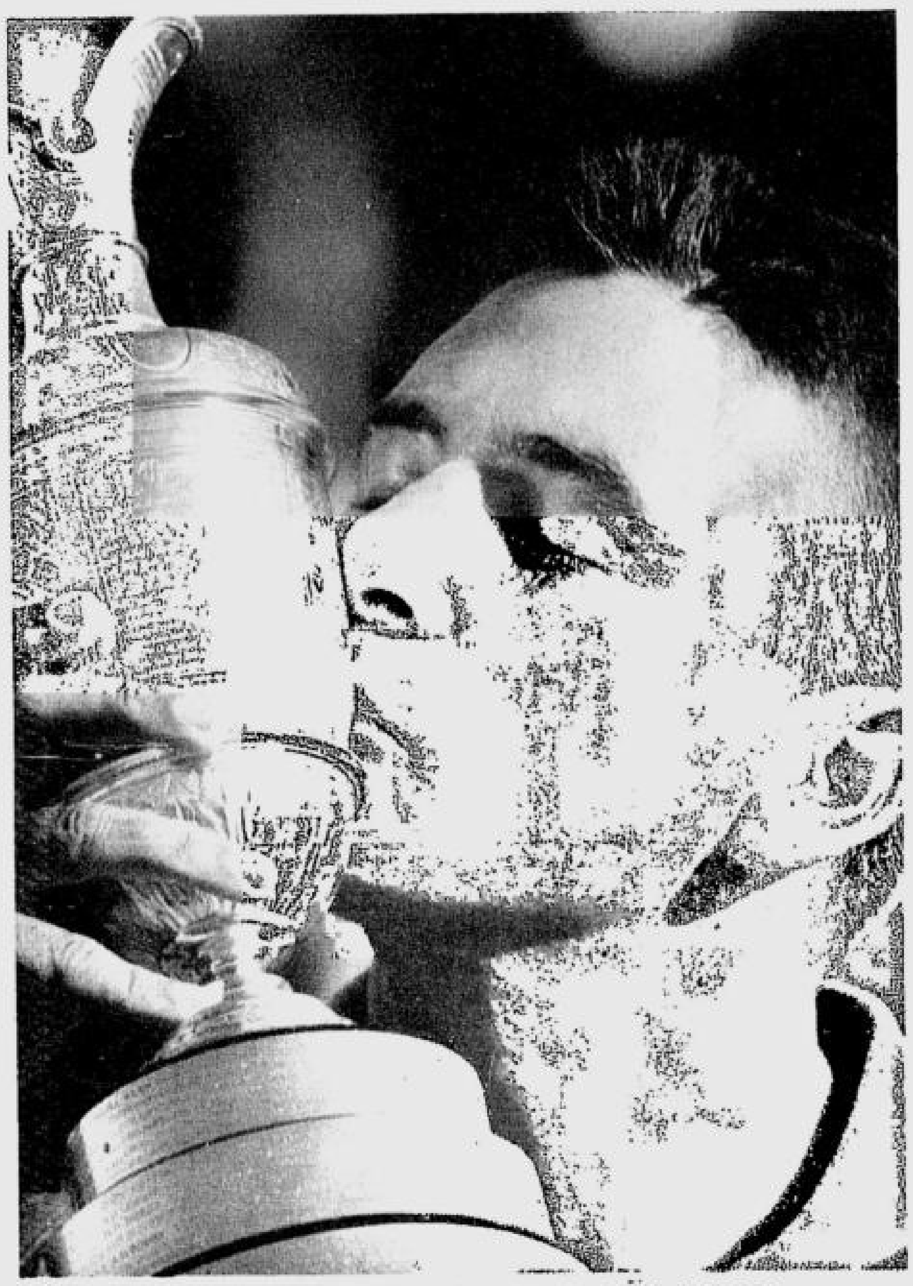


AMERICAN Ben Curtis kisses the Claret jug after winning the British Open.

Outsider Curtis grabs zany Open

SANDWICH, England—On one of the most unpredictable links in golf, and after one of the game's wackiest weeks, the British Open got a champion no one could have predicted.

Ben Curtis, a rookie ranked No. 396 in the world, a 500-1 longshot by the bookies, outlasted Tiger Woods and a collection of All-Stars at Royal St. George's on Sunday to win his first major title.

It was perhaps the most stunning end to a Grand Slam event in 90 years.

"Many people are probably saying, 'Well, he doesn't really belong there,'" Curtis said after a 2-under 69. "But I know I do, so that's all that matters."

Golf's oldest championship took a zany turn right from the start when Woods, the world's most watched player, lost his opening tee shot in the rough and 2,000 fans couldn't figure out where his ball was.

It ended with Thomas Bjorn taking three shots to get out of a bunker on No. 16 and losing the lead.

When it was over, a player hardly anyone knew was holding the claret jug. He now certainly belongs with major champions like Woods, Vijay Singh and Davis Love III because he beat them all, despite four bogeys over the final seven holes. He finished as the sole survivor to par at 283.

Curtis won by a single shot over Singh and the hard-luck Bjorn, who also missed a 6-foot par putt on the 17th and had to hole a chip on the 18th to force a playoff.

When the chip turned away, Andy Sutton, the local caddie Curtis hired to guide him around, said to him on the practice range, "Ben, you're the Open champion."

The words might not have sounded so strange had he been talking to Ben Hogan.

Other highlights:

- Bjorn was penalized two strokes Thursday for slamming his club into a bunker after failing to get out—a no-no when the ball is still in the sand.
- Love hit a tee shot that was going out of bounds Friday until it ricocheted off a white boundary stake.
- Local hero Mark Roe, who would have been paired with Woods in the final round, was disqualified Saturday for putting his score on Jesper Parnevik's card.

The final surprise was the biggest of them all. Curtis is believed to be the first player since Francis Ouimet at the 1913 US Open to win a major title in his first try. *AP*

British Open final round scores

BEN Curtis (US) 283—72-72-70-69, 284— Vijay Singh (Fiji) 75-70-69-70, Thomas Bjorn (Den) 73-70-69-72, 285—Tiger Woods (US) 73-72-69-71, Davis Love III (US) 69-72-72-72, 286—Brian Davis (Eng) 77-73-68-68, Fredrik Jacobson (Swe) 70-76-70-70, 287—Nick Faldo (Eng) 76-74-67-70. *AP*

Pacquiao runs out of sparmates in LA

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES, California—Manny Pacquiao's sparring session had to be cut short on Saturday after a Mexican lightweight failed to stand the Filipino world superbantamweight boxing champion's blazing blows.

Nothing really new in that report as Pacquiao, declared to be in tip-top shape, normally sends battered sparmates to the shower ahead of schedule.

What's truly interesting is this claim from trainer Freddie Roach, who yesterday said that Pacquiao, with the power he has been displaying lately, is capable of knocking out either Marco Antonio Barrera or Eric Morales, the top two world featherweights who appear headed for another showdown.

Emmanuel Lucero, the unbeaten rib-crusher who challenges Pacquiao for the International Boxing Federation 122-lb title at the Grand Olympic Auditorium here on Saturday (Sunday morning in Manila), cannot hold a candle to either Barrera or Morales.

But the main concern in the Pacquiao camp yesterday was how to effectively offset Lucero's fearsome body blows, which have stopped at least 12 of his 20 victims and earned for the challenger the sobriquet *carnicero* (butcher).

Filipino trainer Buboy Fernandez told the INQUIRER the Pacquiao attack will center on the counterpunch and the uppercut. He said these were the weapons trainer Freddie Roach has been asking Pacquiao to perfect.

Fernandez did not mention anything about defense, but added Pacquiao will round up his sparring with four final rounds today, thus bringing his total for the championship date to 90 rounds.

Rod Nazario, Pacquiao's business manager, said they had to hire the unnamed Mexican fighter after two Japanese sparmates, a lightweight and a junior welterweight, had gone stale.

"But the Mexican also gave up after only two rounds. *Talagang hindi nakaya ang lakas ng suntok ni* Manny (He just couldn't take the punches)," Nazario explained.

Although Pacquiao, who weighed 124 pounds yesterday, only two pounds over the division limit, will have his final sparring today, trainer Fernandez said the champ will resume his other regimen, like the morning jog and gym work.

Meanwhile, Nazario noted that the hefty 12-1 odds quoted by Las Vegas bookmakers were unrealistic, adding they were much closer based on the interest the championship has generated mainly among Hispanics in the area.

If anything, Pacquiao should find no problem with the climate, summer being at its peak hereabouts.

But this could not be said of the crowd, which can only be expected to root for the Mexico-born Lucero, while booing and bullying Pacquiao as he makes the fourth defense of the world crown which he captured by stopping Lehlo Ledwaba in Las Vegas in June 2001.

PACQUIAO: His sparmates gave up after two rounds.
ERIK ARAZAS

Champ shrugs off Lucero voodoo

By Salven L. Lagumbay

IBF superbantam champion Manny Pacquiao yesterday pooh-poohed reports challenger Emmanuel Lucero has resorted to voodoo to boost his bid in their title fight in Los Angeles.

"It's nothing but pure talk," said Pacquiao in Filipino.

Pacquiao (36-2-1, 28 KO's) added he is in the best of shape.

The Pacquiao-Lucero showdown is the chief supporting bout to the Fernando Vargas-Fitz Vanderpool clash which will be aired live by HBO in the US and Viva Vintage over RPN-9 in the Philippines.

Lucero (21-0-1, 12 KO's) has reportedly gone home to his folks in Mexico City to ask for their blessing in a ritual. While there, the Bronx-based Lucero killed a bull using a single punch to the forehead. The bull was then offered to a Mexican deity to enable him to possess extraordinary powers to tame the equally strong Pacquiao.

"*Wala kaming pa*-voodoo-voodoo *dito. Ensayo lang kami at nananalangin sa* Diyos," (We don't believe in any voodoo here. We only train and pray to God) said Buboy Fernandez, Pacquiao's assistant trainer, when interviewed by the INQUIRER yesterday.

No PBA contract for toothpaste ad

By June Navarro

THERE was no breach of contract because there was no contract in the first place.

This was emphasized by an official of a local toothpaste company yesterday who admitted he recalled the P5 million cheque issued to the PBA because he and the league failed to come to terms regarding the Beam toothpaste ads at the Araneta Coliseum and the Philsports Arena.

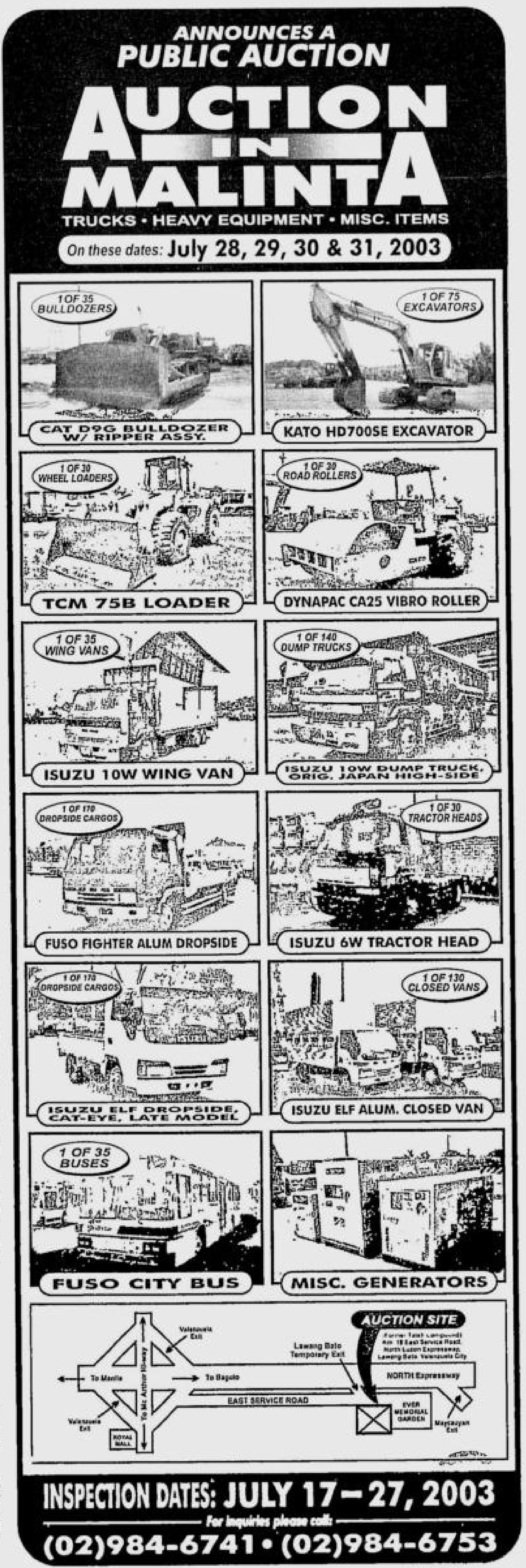
"How will I pay them P5 million if there was no contract at all," said Nelson Macaraig, a marketing agent of Beam, who challenged the PBA to present a contract showing that Beam owes the league.

Macaraig explained that there were initial talks with the PBA on what amount Beam should pay for its ads at both arenas, but added his company found the contract the league drafted unacceptable.

He said negotiations bogged down after the PBA rejected his counter proposal to carry the Beam toothpaste ads everytime the league plays regardless of the venue.

"In other words, no signing between Beam and the PBA ever took place. Therefore, no contract was breached," said Macaraig.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala had charged Beam for breach of contract for issuing a bouncing cheque worth P5 million as payment for the Beam ads.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Rosales settles for share of 12th in Big Apple

IT was certainly not the way to complete another Top 10 showing and Jenny Rosales needed a great finish to at least come close to it.

Rosales went birdie-birdie on the last two holes for a 74 and a share of 12th place in the Sybase Big Apple Classic in New Rochelle, New York on Sunday as Korean Han Hee-won became a Rolex First Time Winner when she beat Meg Mallon by two strokes with an even-par 71 in the final round.

Han, the 2001 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year, wound up with a 273 aggregate. The 14-time LPGA Tour winner Mallon, who shared a five-stroke lead with Han after 54 holes, scored a 73 and finished at 275.

"I'm so happy. It feels good," Han said. "I just focused on the last three holes with no bogeys. I didn't make bogey."

Rosales, ending up 10 shots back at 283, won $15,469 (about P780,000), boosting her earnings this year to $293,799. She flies to France this week for the Evian Masters and then to the Weetabix Women's British Open next week.

A double-bogey on the fifth struck Rosales early and two more bogeys on the 10th and 11th virtually killed her chances of getting a fifth top 10 showing this year. Although she birdied the 15th, Rosales double-bogeyed the 16th before her closing blitz.

Mallon, who fired a tournament low 65 during the third round, fell back after making three bogeys on the front side. She made a late charge with a birdie on the 15th but missed birdie opportunities on the 16th and 17th.

She needed to eagle the 18th to at least forge a playoff, but her 63-foot attempt stopped three inches short. *Jong Arcano with wire reports*

Mapua routs CSB; Lions clobber Stags

GAMES TOMORROW (*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—UPHR vs Letran (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—JRU vs PCU (srs/jrs)

By June Navarro

MAPUA just didn't want to lose to the league's doormat.

With this aim in mind, the Cardinals wasted no effort in scorching the hapless St. Benilde Blazers, 83-63, yesterday in the NCAA basketball championship at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Cardinals jacked up their record to 4-2 while sending the Blazers down to a sixth straight loss that virtually eliminated the 2000 NCAA champion from this year's Final Four.

Jerome Paterno erupted for 29 points as San Beda walloped defending champion San Sebastian College, 80-69, to tie the Cardinals for second place later in the day.

The Stags dropped to 3-3.

"We're more pressured against (St.) Benilde than any other team in the league. The Blazers are out of the running and have nothing to lose," said Mapua coach Horacio Lim.

"*Matalo na sa ibang team, huwag lang sa* Benilde," Lim added.

Although there's no bad blood between the two squads, Lim felt that it would be humiliating to be remembered as the Blazers' first victims this season.

Jofferson Gonzales, Jeffrey Martin, Raymond Dula, Nat Cruz and Chris Guevarra responded to the challenge and finished in double figures for the Cardinals, who bounced back from a close 63-61 setback to San Sebastian last week.

Al Magpayo, the Blazers' chief gunner, came in street clothes after the 6-foot-5 pivotman was slapped a one-game suspension for an unsportsmanlike foul during their losing encounter against San Beda.

Earlier, the La Salle Greenies survived Raphael Garcia's 28-point explosion and nipped the Mapua Robins, 89-86, in the juniors division.

The Greenies tied their victims at 4-2, moving a game behind the league-leading San Beda Cubs (6-0), who blasted the Staglets, 68-57.

SCORES:

Second game (Srs)

MIT 83—Gonzales 18, Martin 15, Dula 13, Cruz 10, Guevarra 10, Salud 6, Veranga 4, Co 4, Lee 2, Del Rosario 1, David 0, Sumalinog 0, Migraso 0, Gorospe 0.

CSB 63—Capati 19, Pagulo 11, Abad 11, Orbeta 8, VReyes 6, Ang 3, U. Reyes 2, Good 2, Robles 1, Sanidad 0, Quizon 0.

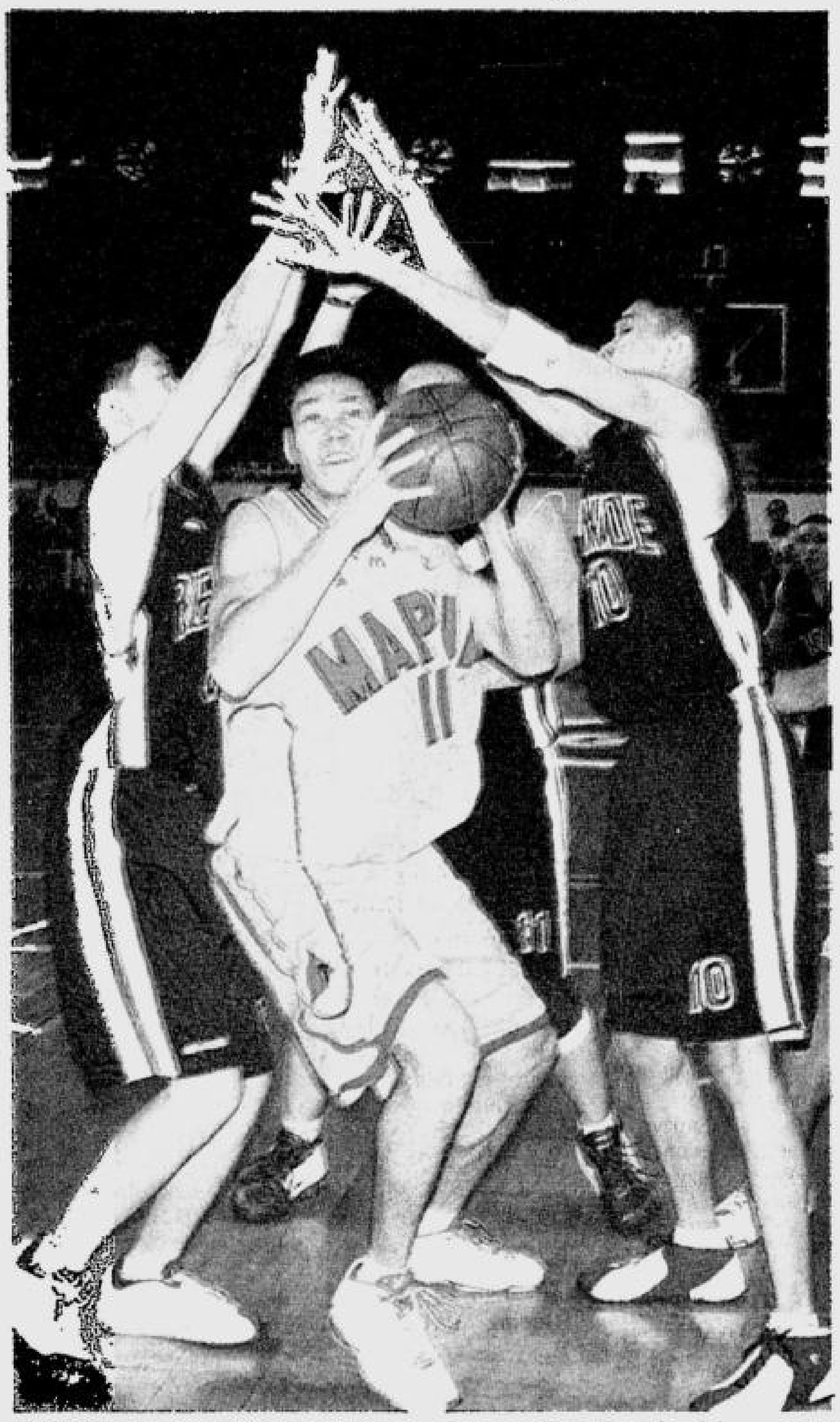
Quarters: 22-10, 44-30, 57-44, 83-63

Fourth game (srs)

SBC 80—Paterno 29, Bombeo 14, Cordero 12, Bughao 11, Apepe 10, Casino 3, Hudencial 1, Padilla 0, Cruz 0, Ong 0.

SSC-R 69—Najorda 17, Aguilar 14, Uy 13, Gonzales 10, Baluyot 6, Vicente 4, Legarde 3, Maneclang 2, Moore 0, Rebuya 0.

Quarters: 20-22, 42-32, 62-44, 80-69.



MAPUA's Raymond Kelvin Dula tries to squirm out of a St.Benilde triple team defense. RUDY ESPERAS

Lady Falcons rip Amazons by 70 points

By Dennis U. Eroa

MIND you, there's life in Adamson basketball.

As its men's team struggles to save itself from another mediocre year, the Adamson women dribblers seem determined to restore pride in the school's basketball program.

With the Falcons still searching for their breakout win after two games in the UAAP cage wars, the Lady Falcons debuted last Sunday with a devastating 70-point win over the University of the East Amazons, 109-39, at the start of the UAAP women's basketball tournament at the Adamson gym in San Marcelino, Malate.

Playing before their cheering fans, the Lady Falcons proved simply unbeatable as national players Minerva Narciza, Dorothy Torres and Janeth Yanez mocked all UE guards thrown at them.

"Adamson is the team to beat this year. It is very strong," said La Salle mentor Mon Jose, a former Green Archers.

The Lady Archers beat the Lady Falcons in last year's best-of-three finals, 2-1, for their fourth straight title.

But Jose, a rookie coach, expect things to be tough this season.

Reason: The Lady Archers no longer enjoy the services of twin sisters Jessica and Jessamine Manalo, who served as their deadly backcourt pair the last four years.

Also missing are Jessica Severino and slotman Princess Mariano.

Regina Velarde, a 5-foot-7 star, is now the focus of La Salle's campaign which gets off the ground Sunday against UE.

While the Adamson-UE was a blowout, the two other matches went down the wire—Santo Tomas pulling off a 65-61 decision over Far Eastern and Ateneo nipping University of the Philippines, 68-66.

RP kids kick off bid in Desert Junior Classic

By Jong Arcano

PALM SPRINGS, California—Nineteen Filipino jungolfers resume their campaign in the United States when they see action in the Palm Desert Junior Classic championships blasting off Monday (Tuesday in Manila) in three different courses here.

Focus will be on Andie Unson, who became the darling of the RP contingent in the Callaway Junior World last week in nearby San Diego when she finished second in the girls 6-8 years, and two other top guns, Wolen Juan Superal and Dottie Ardina.

Interestingly, Unson, will be going up against Ardina and another more seasoned compatriot, Ma. Christina Potenciano, in the girls' 10 years and under class at the Landmark Golf Club.

Filipinos will also be vying for honors in the boys' 8-9 years and boys' 7-under also at Landmark, the boys' 10-11 years, girls' 11-12 and girls' 13-15 at the Westin Mission Hills course and the boys' 14-15 and boys' 12-13 at the Mission Hills Country Club.

Superal and Jobim Carlos are entered in the boys' 10-11 division while Miguel Tabuena, sixth placer in the Junior World, is among the favorites in the boys' 8-9 category. Also competing are Gino Bunyi, Geleen Handog, Terence Macatangay, Aran Olea, JP de Claro, Bino dela Paz, JR Gonzales, Christian Ricohermoso, Debbie de Villa, Mia Piccio, Linnel de Villa, Andrea Legaspi and Mikee Camitoc.

Buhain to meet NSAs

TO AVOID any miscommunication, the Philippine Sports Commission yesterday invited officials of all national sports associations to a fellowship meeting this Thursday and Friday in a bid to bolster their partnership five months before the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

PSC chair Eric Buhain said he expects the NSAs and their representatives to talk about their complaints and other matters related to the SEA Games.

The dialogue is apart from the sessions being conducted by the SEA Games Task Force which is in the final process of screening the athletes going to the Games on Dec. 5-13. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Accidental hero

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

GOLF'S No. 1 position as the world's craziest game was reestablished on Sunday in the 132nd British Open at Royal St. George's.

One got disqualified for the most stupid reason ever.

One got disoriented when victory looked so real with three holes to play.

One got dismissed by putts that either kissed the hole or missed the cup by a hair at the most opportune moments.

And how about this?

One got thrust into history and became golf's most celebrated accidental hero.

In short, the Claret jug, the greatest piece of metal in golf, went to Mr. Nobody as Mr. Somebody & Co. seemed to refuse to want it.

What a weird last day in the British Open, indeed, that if the winner were ranked 2,100th among the 2,100 seekers of berths in golf's summit of excellence, he would have readily accepted that as a compliment.

Ben Curtis, the young qualifier from Kent, Ohio, ranked 327th in the world, was among 156 starters on Thursday. Two days later he made the cut. Overjoyed, he was the first to arrive for third-round play.

On Sunday as dusk fell, the spotlight fell on the most unlikely winner of golf's most coveted prize.

Curtis, as nondescript as any man in the street on a given day, became the most unknown long shot to become golf's hotshot overnight.

Tears streaming down his face, voice cracking from emotion, Curtis said during the awarding: "Oh, my…I thank my family, my fiancée, and my two cousins who came from America today."

He might as well have thanked Thomas Bjorn and he'd be cheered on lustily.

He might as well have thanked Tiger Woods and he'd be cheered on more loudly than when Michael Jordan sank that jump shot against Utah to hand yet another NBA title to Chicago sometime ago.

He might as well have thanked Davis Love III, Vijay Singh and even Sergio Garcia and he'd be praised for humility beyond compare.

Bjorn transformed from Dashing Dane to Distraught Dane when he blew a 3-shot margin with four holes left to play.

With a final-day 1-over 72-284, he lost by one.

Woods, who fired two eagles the day before, kept missing very sinkable putts while either on the driver's seat or on the verge of recapturing/resharing the lead.

With a final-day 71-285, he lost by two.

But while Woods had a certified roller coaster ride four days in a row, Bjorn was solid all week.

Until the 70th hole.

Finding the bunker of the par-3 16th, Bjorn, hurrying his tee shot somewhat after making bogey on 15, barked at the green.

The green, a bit uphill, didn't bite, the ball spinning back to the bunker.

Another bark, another no-bite. Same shot, same result.

He finally got out in three. One putt. Double bogey. Suddenly, he had no more lead to show with two holes to go.

Another bogey on 17 and Bjorn became trailer from leader with one hole left to play. Needing to chip-in from 60 yards to force a playoff with Curtis, Bjorn was short by a foot, add or take away a millimeter or two.

And suddenly Curtis, whose name rings a bell only because of the fame of Hollywood actor Tony Curtis, was golf's unlikeliest toast for the next 12 months.

His stature is rivaled only by Mark Roe—in reverse.

The Englishman fired a tournament-best 67 on Saturday to stay 2 shots behind the leaders, only to get disqualified for signing a scorecard that had another player's name: Swede Jasper Parnevik. Parnevik had an 81 on the scorecard that had Roe's name in it.

They forgot to switch scorecards before starting and after completing their third round. They signed scorecards that weren't theirs.

But in the end, I give credit to Curtis. He may not be that popular, but the way he won golf's most revered trophy was something to be talked about in a long, long time.

If Sergio Garcia's par-saving approach was a magical shot and Tiger Woods' eagle from the bunker was one for the books during Saturday's third-round play, Ben Curtis' final-day 69 was poetry in motion.

Playing almost impeccably, Curtis iced his 69 with the coolest, tournament-winning stroke ever done in a major.

Curtis' 15-footer to save par on his 72nd hole was the putt of the tournament, the one that restored order to an otherwise wild and wooly Open in a place called Sandwich in England. There was no stroke as riveting as that.

Indeed, raw courage knows no fear.

So again, golf makes you nuts?

Sure. But to Curtis, allow for nuts to have guts and victory is not far-fetched.

Instant fame, too.

SEMI-FINALS TONIGHT !
9 Ball TIRADOR! 2003
P5 Million Double Knockdown 9 Ball Masters Showdown
Match 11: Nikoy LINING versus Warren KIAMCO
7:00 pm on IBC Ch. 13
Billiards & Snooker Congress of the Philippines
STANDINGS - Semi-Finals Round

	W	L
Marlon Manalo	3	1
Warren Kiamco	2	0
Nikoy Lining	2	0
Bebeng Gallego	2	2

Brought to you by: MOTOLITE PANGMATAGALAN Colt 45
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German clinches world pool crown

GERMAN Thosten Hohmann clinched the 2003 World Pool Championship with a 17-10 demolition of Canadian Alex Pagulayan Sunday night at the Cardiff International Arena in Cardiff, Wales.

Just 24 years old, Hohmann became the youngest winner of the event participated in by 128 of the world's finest 9-ball players, including the nine-man Filipino brigade headed by 1999 world champion Efren "Bata" Reyes and 2002 losing finalist Francisco "Django" Bustamante.

This time, Bustamante made the last 8 and Reyes the last 16.

Team Philippines excludes the 25-year-old Pagulayan, who is of Filipino descent but now calls Toronto home.

Hohmann, who rallied from four sets down to oust Bustamante (11-10) in the quarterfinals, earned $65,000 (P3.2 million) while Pagulayan pocketed $30,000 (P1.6 million).

Showing the form that enabled him to rout American defending champion Earl "the Pearl" Strickland (11-4) in the semifinals, Hohmann raced to a 12-7 lead, allowed Pagulayan to take the next three racks before storming to victory.

While acknowledging that Hohmann played better, Pagulayan largely put the blame on himself.

"I am not dedicated enough. I need to try a lot harder and keep playing till I win. I really believe I will have another chance to win here. All I can do now is cry and go home," Pagulayan said.

Meanwhile, Joaquin Perez de Tagle, secretary-general of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP), clarified that the Philippine Sports Commission funded the stint of Marlon Manalo, Lee Van Corteza, Warren Kiamco and Nickoy Lining in Cardiff.

"Considering the importance of the tournament, the BSCP requested and got the support of the PSC board regarding the participation of the four national players. This is part of the team's training for the Vietnam SEA Games," said De Tagle. He also added that Dennis Orcullo and Bebeng Gallego, shouldered their own expenses to compete in the prestigious gathering of the world's top pool players.

De Tagle said the PSC gave a total of $8,400 (P445,000.00) for the plane fare and allowances of Lining and Co.

SPORTSWATCH

Yonsei cagers arriving Friday

SOUTH Korea's Yonsei University team will be arriving this Friday to compete in the Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship. The Koreans will be bannered by four mainstays of the national junior team that whipped rival China, 101-72, in the recent World Junior Championships in Greece. The four—Yang Hee-Jong, Kim Tae-Sul, Kim Jae Hwan and Lee Kwang-Jae will be joined by Bang Sung-Yoon, the team's resident star who was also part of the Sokor team that dealt the PBA-formed RP squad a heartbreaking loss in the last Asian Games in Busan. Chinese club team Jilin Yio Qi is to arrive Saturday while a Yugoslavian selection is booked to fly in on two batches on Wednesday and Friday for the Invitationals slated to start Sunday at the Cuneta Astrodome. Other teams entered are the Southeast Asian Games-bound RP Team, Red Bull Barako, FedEx Express, Talk 'N Text, San Miguel Beermen, Coke and Alaska Milk.

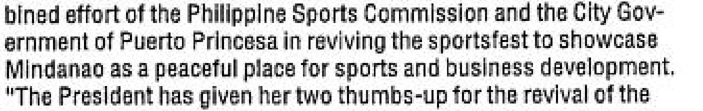
MARATHON CHAMPION Lipa City native Frederick Latina crosses the finish line in 1 hour, 11 minutes and 53 seconds to top the 27th National Milo Marathon elimination run in Lipa City last Sunday. Latina and Myraluz Gomos-Abueg will represent Region IV in the Milo Marathon National Finals on Oct. 16. The event drew 6,000 runners.

GMA blessing for friendship Games

THE BRUNEI, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines-East Asian Growth Area Friendship Games (BIMP-EAGA) set Aug. 23 to 25 in Puerto Princesa enjoys the blessing of President Macapagal-Arroyo. This was announced by Presidential assistant for Mindanao affairs Jesus G. Dureza yesterday, saying the Chief Executive has lauded the combined effort of the Philippine Sports Commission and the City Government of Puerto Princesa in reviving the sportsfest to showcase Mindanao as a peaceful place for sports and business development. "The President has given her two thumbs-up for the revival of the BIMP-EAGA as the Games will surely boost the government's economic program in Mindanao," said Dureza, also the chairperson of the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco).

La Salle booters blank Alumnae FC

DE LA SALLE University blanked Alumnae FC, a selection of ex-national players, 8-0, in the recent Samsung Ladies Open football cup. Hardly missing the services of star defender Andrea Yang, La Salle banked on the hat tricks by skipper Mariel Benitez and striker Inna Alejandro plus one each by Andrea Sevilla and Gia Yusi to post the victory and stay on top of the tournament. University of the Philippines is at second place. Goals by Sai Bellosillo, Jen Marquez, Elisa Benitez and Gieleen Resurreccion gave Mike Athab's UP Lady Footballers a 6-0 win over the high schoolers of De La Salle Zobel. Other matches saw UST nip Ateneo, 1-0, and FEU trip PUP, 2-1.



BADMINTON SPONSOR Yonex, represented in the Philippines by World Kalakal Inc., recently concluded an agreement with the Ateneo de Manila University to sponsor Ateneo's varsity badminton men and women teams in the UAAP. From left are Melanie Aquino, Norman Lozendo, director for finance and sales, respectively, of World Kalakal Inc.; Jose Capistrano Jr., Ateneo athletics director, Mario Oreta, alumni head booster, and Emerson Co, student team manager.

SPORTS TV

GOLF: Ford Senior Players Championship, First Round; 9 a.m. (r-5:30 p.m.), Second Round, 8 p.m.; Star Sports—Catch the best senior golfers in action as they tee off from Dearborn, Michigan

Compiled by L. Mangulat

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPECTATORS cheer on Jan Ullrich (front) and Lance Armstrong (in yellow jersey) during a steep climb in Saint-Giros in the 14th stage. AFP

TOO CLOSE TO CALL

Tour de France trio gear up for decisive finale

LOUDENVIELLE-LE LOURON, France—A week before the curtain falls on the centenary Tour de France, three men are gearing up for one of the closest finales in the race's history.

Everybody expected American Lance Armstrong, peerless since 1999, to comfortably add a record-equaling fifth Tour win to his collection on Sunday in Paris.

Yet only 15 seconds separate the race leader from Jan Ullrich of Germany, while Kazakh rider Alexander Vinokourov is now just three seconds further back in the overall standings.

Having started the day 61 seconds back, Vinokourov closed his gap with overall leader Armstrong to just 18 seconds. That leaves him, Armstrong and 1997 Tour winner Ullrich locked in a nail-biting battle with only six days of racing to the winner's podium in Paris.

Vinokourov placed sixth in the 191.5-kilometer (119-mile) stage, 43 seconds ahead of both Armstrong and Ullrich. They finished 11th and 12th, 1:24 behind winner Gilberto Simoni of Italy. Ullrich's 15-second deficit to Armstrong overall did not change. Simoni took 5:31:52 to cover the jagged route from Saint-Girons to Loudenvielle-Le Louron.

When the route was unveiled last October, the shorter time trials and fewer mountain finishes looked destined to make the race a tighter affair.

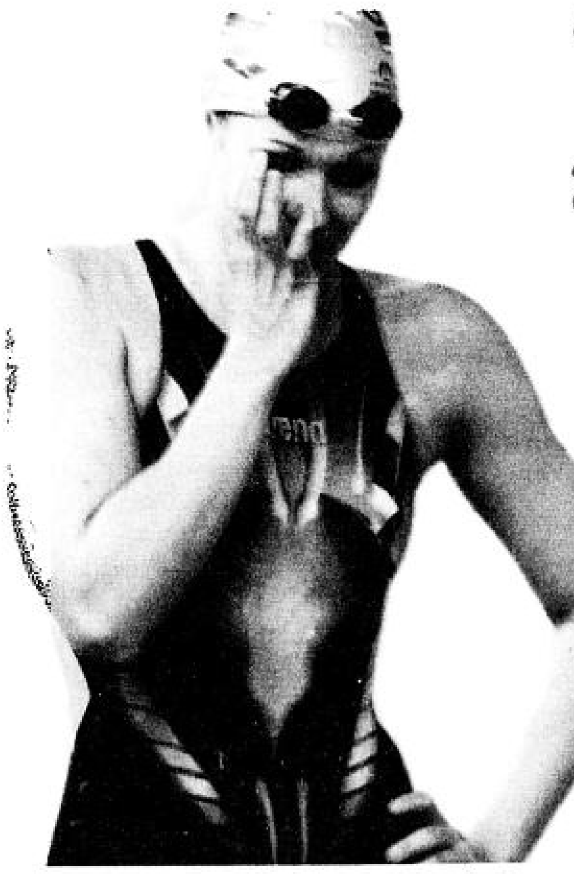
But nobody, and probably not even Tour director Jean-Marie Leblanc, would have believed that Armstrong's fate could be decided on the penultimate day, in a 49-km time trial.

The Texan himself had hoped for an easier time.

"As I said before the start in Paris, I knew it was going to be close. I probably did not expect it to come down to the last decisive time trial for the Tour to be decided," Armstrong said.

Armstrong had always singled out Ullrich as his main rival.

But after beating him twice in 2000 and 2001, and given the 1997 Tour winner's 14-month absence through injury and a doping ban, the American was probably not expecting him to be this close. *Reuters, AP*



GERMANY'S Hannah Stockbauer reacts after her victory in the women's 400-meter freestyle final. AP

'Thorpedo' strikes as pool action begins

BARCELONA, Spain—Australia and the United States matched each other medal-for-medal on the first day of pool events at the World Championships.

The two meet favorites each won one gold, one silver and one bronze medal.

Ian Thorpe became the first gold medalist to emerge from the pool at the Palau St. Jordi.

The Australian "Thorpedo" comfortably demonstrated Sunday that he is still unbeatable in the 400-meter freestyle, finishing in 3 minutes, 42.58 seconds, more than a length ahead of silver medalist and countryman Grant Hackett (3:45.17). Dragos Coman of Romania took the bronze medal in 3:46.87.

Hannah Stockbauer of Germany won gold in the women's 400-m freestyle (4:06.75). The United States claimed top honors in the 400 freestyle relay (3:38.09) and Russia took the men's relay version.

On Monday, medals will be handed out in women's 100 butterfly, men's 50 butterfly, men's 100 breaststroke and women's 200 individual medley.

Thorpe's victory made him the first swimmer to win three straight world titles in the same event. His ninth gold medal also made him the first man to win that many in the worlds.

He immediately credited his new coach Tracey Menzies.

"Tracey told me just to concentrate on the ABCs and to make sure that I stayed in control for the whole race," Thorpe said. "I'm pleased with that swim. But it's the start of a long meet. I was very relaxed before the race."

Hackett was the last man six years ago to beat Thorpe at 400 meters in a major meet.

"I was disappointed thinking that my personal best could have actually got on top of Ian tonight," Hackett said. *AP*

Dive Shoppe shuttlers prevail

DIVE SHOPPE put away the Philippine Daily Inquirer, 3-2, Sunday to rule the Sportshouse Corporate and Celebrity Cup Invitational Badminton Tournament.

The team, composed of recreational divers who hone their badminton skills at the Aguinaldo Badminton Club, secured the crown by winning the first three matches—the men's and ladies' 35-under and ladies 35-over categories.

With the championship of the tournament co-presented by Dunlop Slazenger Philippines already in the bag, Dive Shoppe lost the last two matches—the men's 35-over and mixed doubles—in the finals held at the Atrium of the SM Megamall.

"We did not expect to win this one," said Dive Shoppe coach Ronald Magnaye.

Teng Dayan and Alma Bringas kicked off Dive Shoppe's defeat of INQUIRER, beating Isabel Barandiaran and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, 13-11, 11-9, in the opening ladies' doubles 35-over category.

Dave Santos and Glenn Molino followed it up with a 15-14, 15-2 drubbing of John Neri and Raul Marcelo in the men's 35-over, and Gina Flores and Jhona Magnaye wrapped it all up for Dive Shoppe with an 11-9, 11-13, 11-6 victory over Amanda Carpo and Gem Padilla in the ladies' 35-over.

Dave Valdez and Arsenic Laurel prevented the shutout with a 14-17, 15-9, 15-6 triumph over Jingle Chan and Jet Gloria in the men's 35-over. Raymond Rufino and Judy Lim then beat Willy and Emma Agbulos in the mixed doubles.

Aussie cagers blast Lithuanians for title

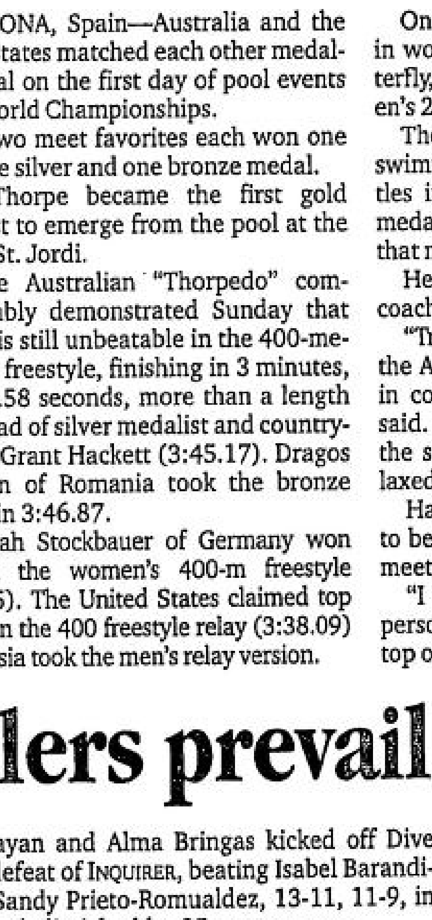
THESSALONIKI, Greece—Andrew Bogut scored a game-high 35 points Sunday to help Australia win the World Junior Basketball Championships after humiliating Lithuania 126-92.

Bogut was named MVP.

Australia's 126 points were a record for the 7-year-old tournament, as was the final score's 34-point difference. The Aussies also racked up a record 71 points by halftime.

Lithuania led the game 21-23 in the first quarter before Australia went on a 14-0 drive to end the quarter ahead 35-25.

In the third-place match, Ian Vougioukas scored 20 points to lead Greece over Croatia 73-64. *AP*



AUSTRALIAN Andrew Bogut shoots against Lithuania's Darius Silinskis.

Decatus grabs gold in Samsung taekwondo

US OPEN bronze medalist Gerrielyn Decatus outhustled Clark Field's Irene Parker, 4-3, to bag the junior women's flyweight gold in the Samsung Best of the Best taekwondo championships which ended Sunday at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

It was the second gold for Decatus in the prestigious tourney in two years. Last year, the 16-year-old St. Anthony High senior ruled the bantamweight class.

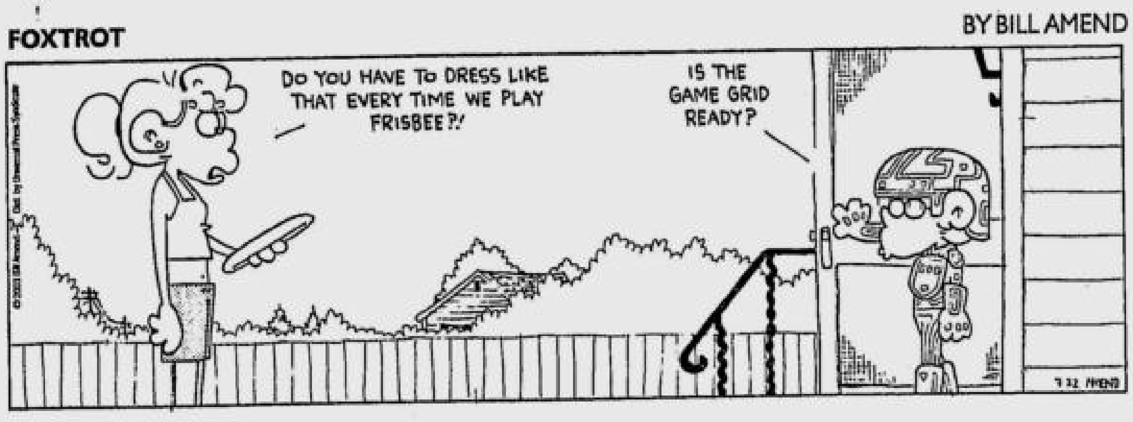
US and Korea Open champion Esther Marie Singson successfully defended her middleweight crown, while Sarah Joy Arellano, winner of featherweight gold last year, ruled the lightweight category.

Singson routed Jan Ross pacquing, 8-3, while Arellano whipped Bulacan's Karen Ong, 4-0.

Junior men's feather Jeffrey Figueroa came back from a two-year lull to down Zamboanga's Nolene delos Reyes, 4-2, in one of the most exciting final matches.

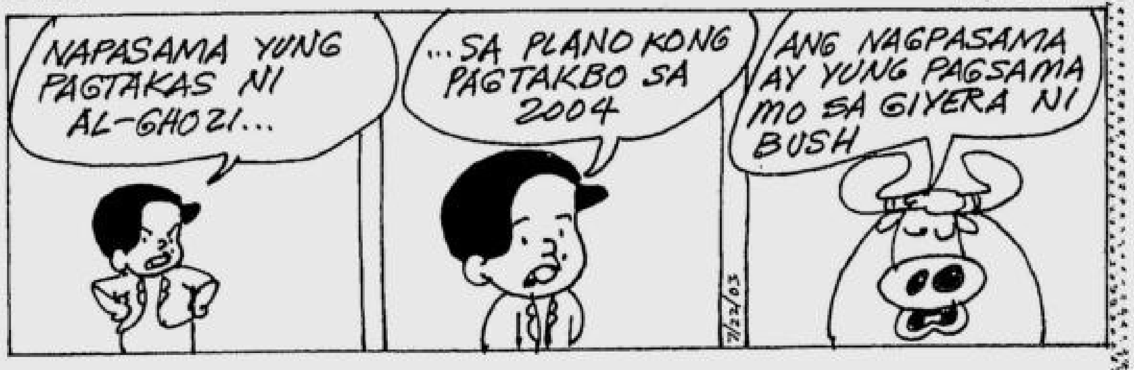
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


DO YOU HAVE TO DRESS LIKE THAT EVERY TIME WE PLAY FRISBEE?!
IS THE GAME GRID READY?
7-22 AMEND

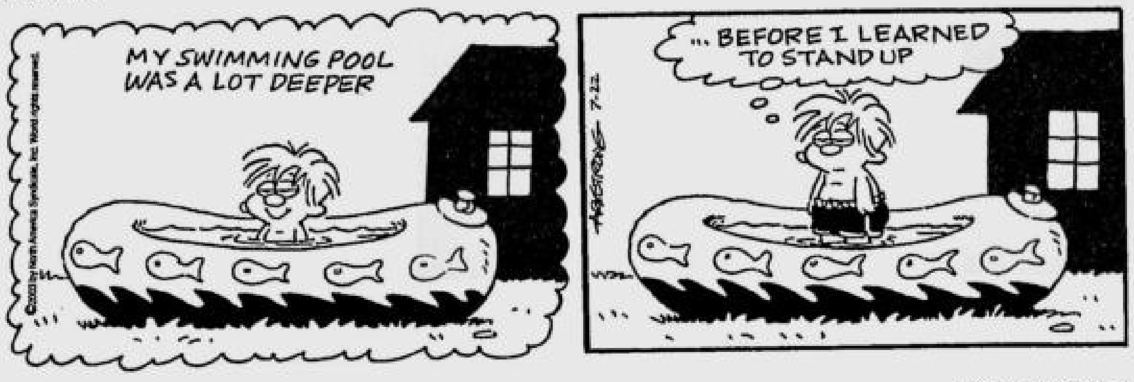
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAPASAMA YUNG PAGTAKAS NI AL-GHOZI...
...SA PLANO KONG PAGTAKBO SA 2004
ANG NAGPASAMA AY YUNG PAGSAMA MO SA GIYERA NI BUSH
7/22/03

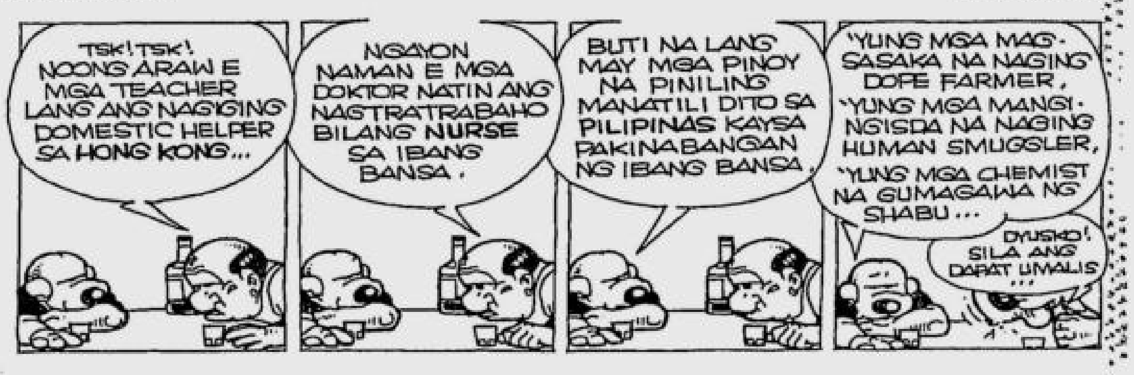
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MY SWIMMING POOL WAS A LOT DEEPER
...BEFORE I LEARNED TO STAND UP
7-22
ARMSTRONG

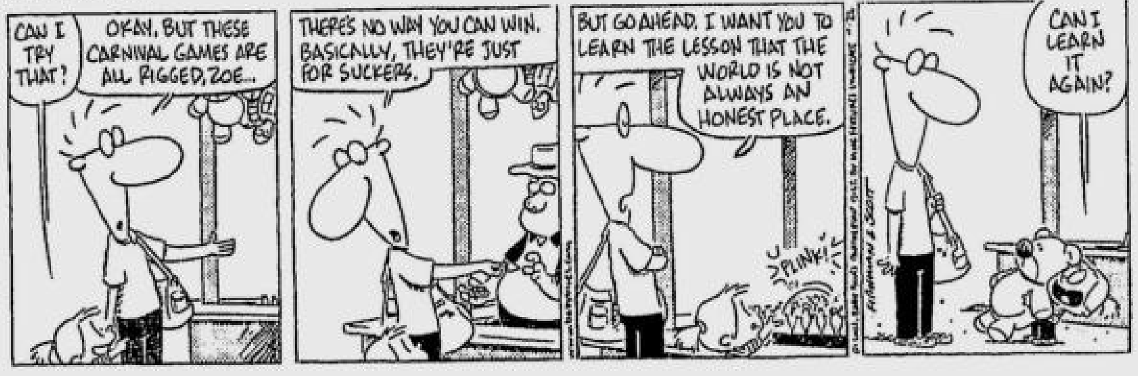
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TSK! TSK! NOONG ARAW E MGA TEACHER LANG ANG NAGIGING DOMESTIC HELPER SA HONG KONG...
NGAYON NAMAN E MGA DOKTOR NATIN ANG NAGTRATRABAHO BILANG NURSE SA IBANG BANSA.
BUTI NA LANG MAY MGA PINOY NA PINILING MANATILI DITO SA PILIPINAS KAYSA PAKINABANGAN NG IBANG BANSA.
'YUNG MGA MAGSASAKA NA NAGING DOPE FARMER, 'YUNG MGA MANGINGISDA NA NAGING HUMAN SMUGGLER, 'YUNG MGA CHEMIST NA GUMAGAWA NG SHABU...
DYUSKO! SILA ANG DAPAT UMALIS...

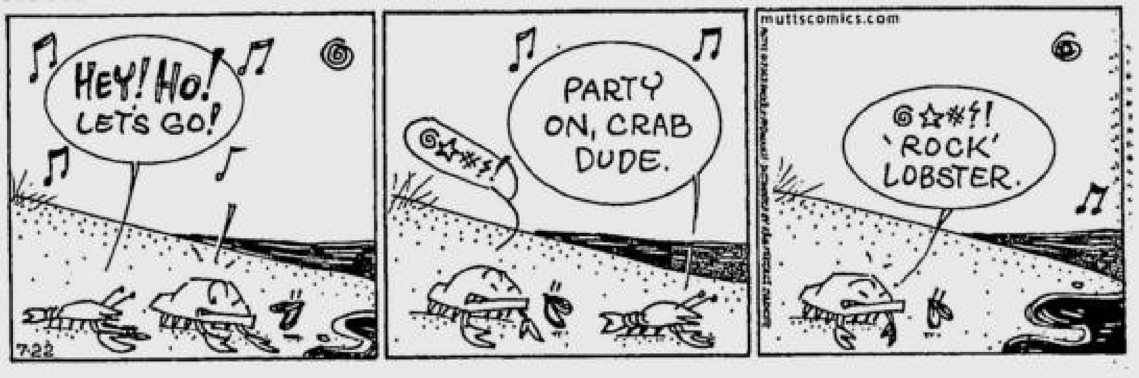
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


CAN I TRY THAT?
OKAY, BUT THESE CARNIVAL GAMES ARE ALL RIGGED, ZOE...
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN WIN. BASICALLY, THEY'RE JUST FOR SUCKERS.
BUT GO AHEAD. I WANT YOU TO LEARN THE LESSON THAT THE WORLD IS NOT ALWAYS AN HONEST PLACE.
PLINK!
CAN I LEARN IT AGAIN?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

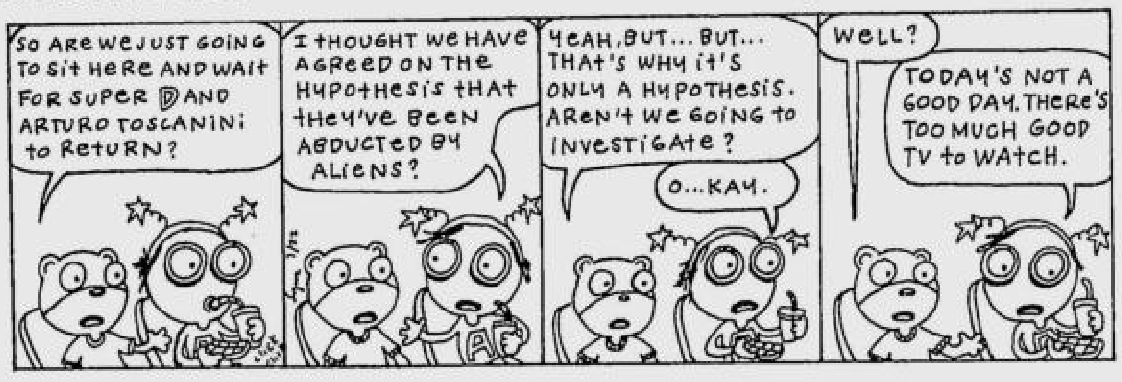
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEY! HO! LET'S GO!
PARTY ON, CRAB DUDE.
@☆*$!
mutscomics.com
@☆#$! 'ROCK' LOBSTER.
7-22

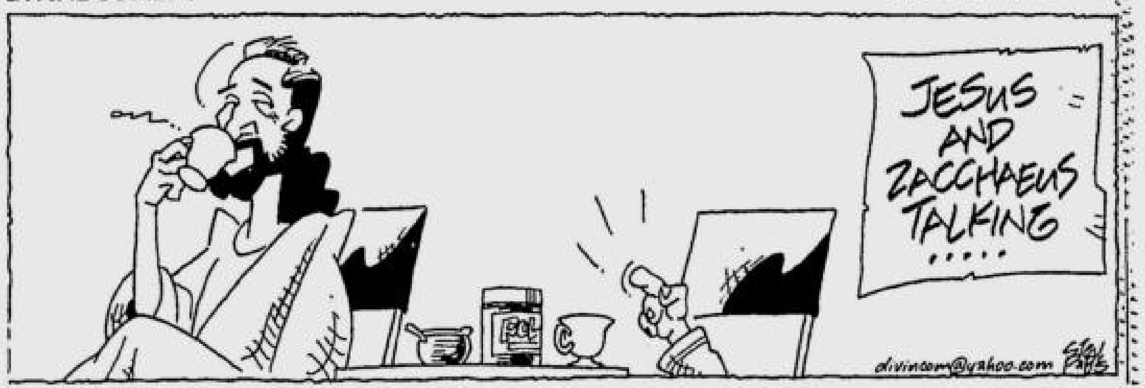
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SO ARE WE JUST GOING TO SIT HERE AND WAIT FOR SUPER D AND ARTURO TOSCANINI TO RETURN?
I THOUGHT WE HAVE AGREED ON THE HYPOTHESIS THAT THEY'VE BEEN ABDUCTED BY ALIENS?
YEAH, BUT... BUT... THAT'S WHY IT'S ONLY A HYPOTHESIS. AREN'T WE GOING TO INVESTIGATE?
O...KAY.
WELL?
TODAY'S NOT A GOOD DAY. THERE'S TOO MUCH GOOD TV TO WATCH.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS TALKING .....
divincom@yahoo.com

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are ambitious and success-oriented. You have the courage to follow your dreams. Nothing can hold you back once you set your sights on something. Your confidence gives you strength. Recognition sometimes comes to you later in life. Expect more solitude this year, because there's something important you have to learn. **Birthdate of:** Alexander Calder, American sculptor; Alex Trebek, game-show host; Emma Lazarus, poet.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Starting today, you enter a four-week period of romance, parties, entertaining times and good fun. You can especially enjoy playful activities with children.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): It's time now to turn your focus to domestic matters—home and family. Family reunions and visiting relatives give you opportunities to talk about the good old days.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Fasten your seat belt! Your daily tempo accelerates now, as you enter a month of short trips, appointments and increased interaction with siblings. You'll enjoy socializing with daily contacts now.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your focus turns to money—earning it and spending it. You might have your eye on something special that you want to buy. (In truth, you hope to show something off.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today the Sun enters your sign. For the next four weeks, it is your turn to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year. Expect people and opportunities to come your way!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Give yourself a chance to rest a little. You need more time for peace and quiet, plus reclusive study. Your interest in spiritual subjects is strong now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your popularity rating is starting to rise! Expect to hear from friends and to receive invitations to attend events at clubs, organizations and friendly gatherings. Accept!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): The Sun is at high noon in your chart. This attracts attention to you now. Dress well and put your best foot forward. Expect others to thrust increased responsibilities on you.

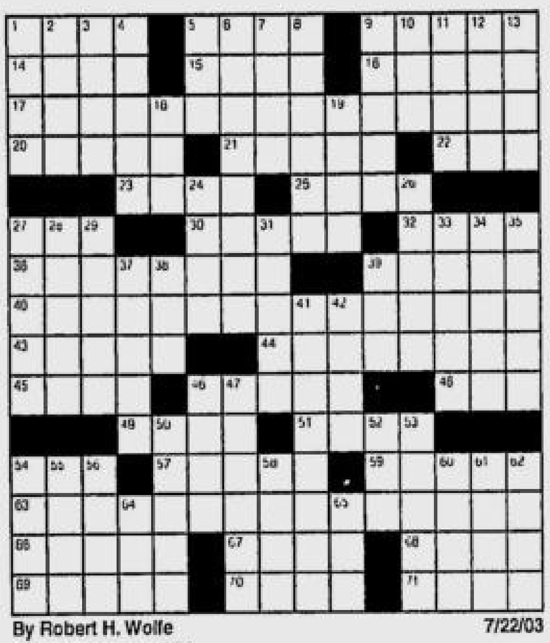
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You are the traveler of the zodiac. You are always trying to expand your life through learning, visiting other cultures and broadening your horizons. Do what you can now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You feel intensely passionate about something now. You will no longer sit on the sidelines. You are ready to fight for your rights.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Intense discussions with partners and close friends can teach you much about yourself now. Be sure that you truly listen to what others have to say.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Act on your urge to get more organized in your life now. You will not regret it. Give yourself the tools to do the job properly.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY
7/22/03

ACROSS
1 Canines
5 Editor's "leave it in"
9 Wild
14 Stagnant
15 Comic Johnson
16 Carroll's heroine
17 Consider differently
20 Meara and Jackson
21 NBA-ers Archibald and Thurmond
22 Fetch
23 Little blows
25 Hurries
27 Tack on
30 Vader's weapon
32 What __ is new?
36 Potential customer
39 Poppy product
40 Consider giving it a try
43 Let up
44 Weest
45 Single Sra.
46 Actress Verdugo
48 Comic Louis
49 Mexican menu item
51 Those folk
54 The Racer's Edge
57 Deep pit
59 Sousa piece
63 Consider what's to come
66 Bewildered
67 Sharpen
68 Red's Kadiddlehopper
69 High school years
70 Major conclusion?
71 Uriah of fiction

DOWN
1 Met performer
2 Chief Norse deity
3 Narrow valley
4 Seamstress
5 Antonio or Angelo of Texas
6 Do business
7 Italian Mount
8 Cut molars
9 Trumped-up
10 Lilly or Wallach
11 "The Avengers" star Diana
12 Belly or heart follower?
13 Riga resident
18 O.T. book
19 2003 Masters Champion
24 Petition
26 Calyx part
27 Church sections
28 Gloomy, to poets
29 Archaic verb for thee
31 Way
33 Closet items
34 Full of lather
35 Overact
37 Perspiration
38 High deg.
39 Fall mo.
41 Dermatologist's Rx
42 Provo's place
46 Repeat
47 Despise
50 Represent
52 Outback nester
53 Fire starter
54 Thin strip
55 Lug
56 Strike a stance
58 Worn out
60 Reign
61 Canadian tribe
62 Coarse fiber
64 Barbie's beau
65 Service charge

Monday's Puzzle Solved

E	L	E	C		E	C	H	O		S	L	E	W	S
L	I	A	R		C	O	O	L		H	A	R	E	M
E	Z	R	A	P	O	U	N	D		U	N	I	T	E
V	A	N	N	A		P	E	P		T	E	N	S	E
			K	I	E	L		R	T	E				
R	F	D		G	R	E	G	O	R	Y	P	E	C	K
E	L	E	V	E	N	T	H		Y	E	O	M	E	N
G	A	L	E			S	E	N			C	O	C	A
I	S	L	E	T	S		N	E	U	R	O	T	I	C
S	H	A	R	O	N	S	T	O	N	E		E	L	K
				O	R	T		P	A	D	S			
S	M	A	R	T		R	A	H		I	O	N	I	A
L	I	M	O	S		A	R	Y	E	G	R	O	S	S
A	L	I	B	I		T	I	T	O		T	A	T	A
P	O	S	S	E		A	D	E	N		S	H	O	P

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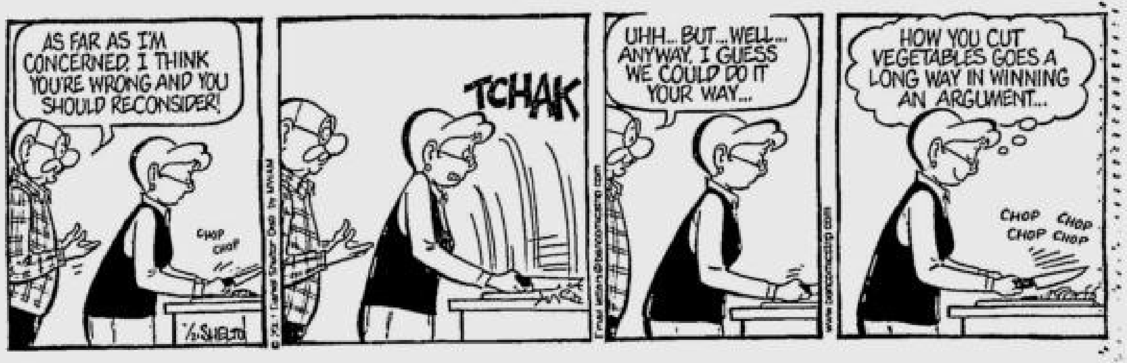
7/22/03

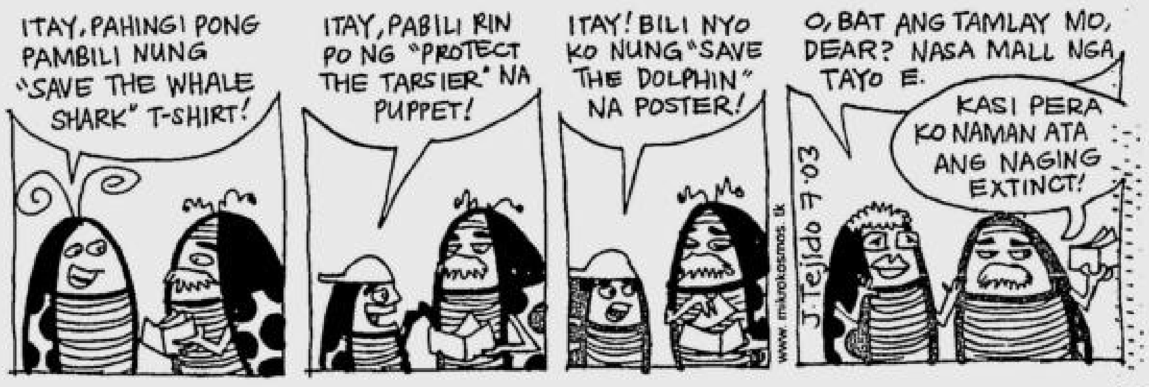
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, I THINK YOU'RE WRONG AND YOU SHOULD RECONSIDER!
CHOP CHOP
TCHAK
UHH... BUT... WELL... ANYWAY, I GUESS WE COULD DO IT YOUR WAY...
HOW YOU CUT VEGETABLES GOES A LONG WAY IN WINNING AN ARGUMENT...
CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP
www.bencomicstrip.com

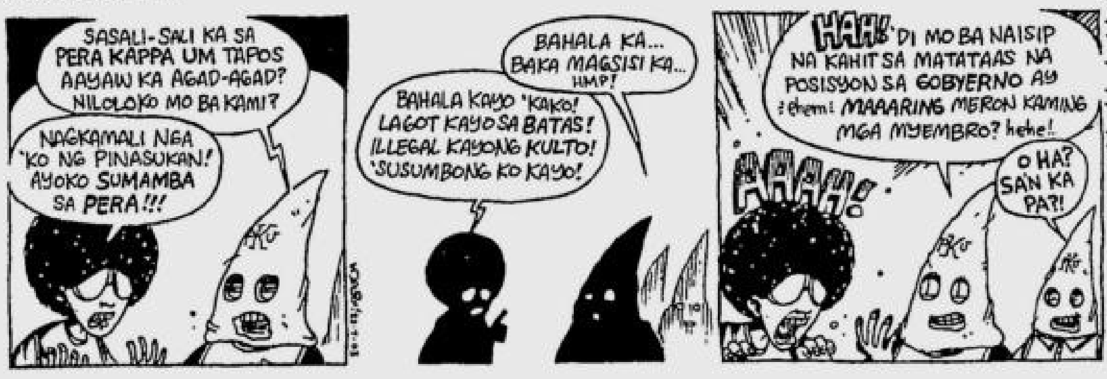
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ITAY, PAHINGI PONG PAMBILI NUNG "SAVE THE WHALE SHARK" T-SHIRT!
ITAY, PABILI RIN PO NG "PROTECT THE TARSIER" NA PUPPET!
ITAY! BILI NYO KO NUNG "SAVE THE DOLPHIN" NA POSTER!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido 7.03
O, BAT ANG TAMLAY MO, DEAR? NASA MALL NGA TAYO E.
KASI PERA KO NAMAN ATA ANG NAGING EXTINCT!

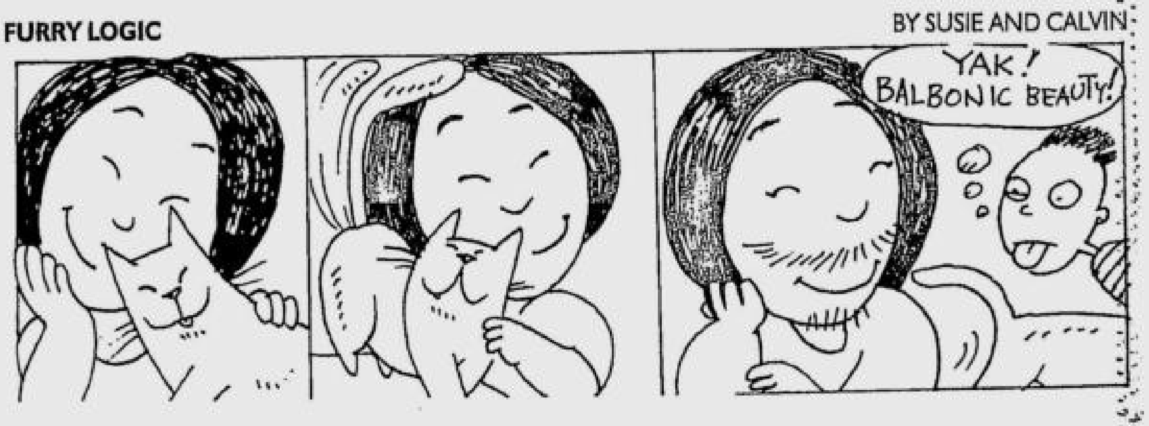
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


SASALI-SALI KA SA PERA KAPPA UM TAPOS AAYAW KA AGAD-AGAD? NILOLOKO MO BA KAMI?
NAGKAMALI NGA 'KO NG PINASUKAN! AYOKO SUMAMBA SA PERA!!!
BAHALA KAYO 'KAKO! LAGOT KAYO SA BATAS! ILLEGAL KAYONG KULTO! 'SUSUMBONG KO KAYO!
BAHALA KA... BAKA MAGSISI KA... HMP!
HAH! DI MO BA NAISIP NA KAHIT SA MATATAAS NA POSISYON SA GOBYERNO AY ehem! MAAARING MERON KAMING MGA MYEMBRO? hehe!
AAAH!
O HA? SAN KA PA?!

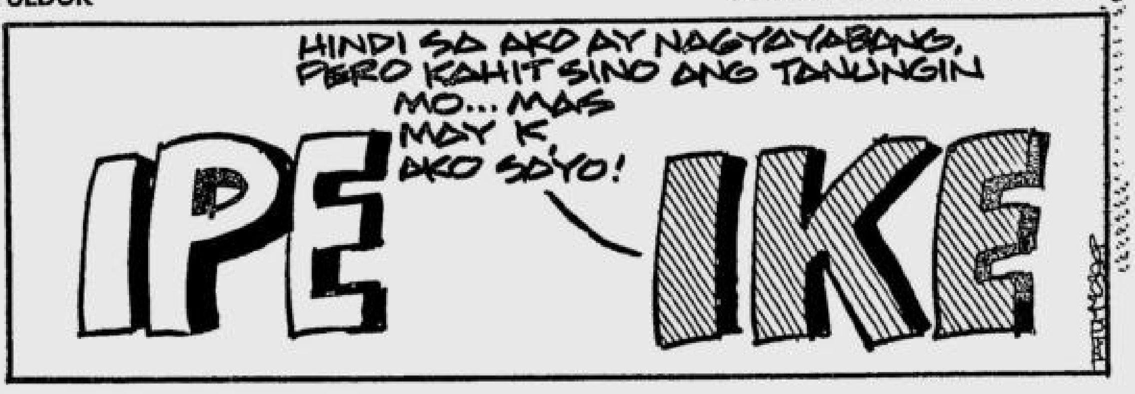
FURRY LOGIC

BY SUSIE AND CALVIN


YAK! BALBONIC BEAUTY!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HINDI SA AKO AY NAGYAYABANG, PERO KAHIT SINO ANG TANUNGIN MO... MAS MAY K AKO SA'YO!
IPE
IKE

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE	1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE 2 THE BANGKOK HAUNTED	ArtFilm 1 MIRANDA (Exclusive) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 TERMINATOR 3 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40	THX 1 TERMINATOR 3
2 TERMINATOR 3	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 TERMINATOR 3 10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 4 JACKASS	2 DOWN WITH LOVE 11:35, 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 DOWN WITH LOVE 12:55, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15, 11:20	2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 DEATHWATCH	5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE		GUARANTEED SEATS 3 IMPOSTOR 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	3 DOWN WITH LOVE
4 DOWN WITH LOVE	6 DOWN WITH LOVE 7 IMPOSTOR	LANI MISALUCHA... LOVING YOU July 25 & 26 - 9pm	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS 5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15	CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 5 IMPOSTOR

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2 (SDDS) TERMINATOR-3
3 (DTS) JACKASS THE MOVIE
4 GOLD (DTS-ES) DOWN WITH LOVE
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6 GOLD (SDDS) TERMINATOR-3
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) IMPOSTOR
8 MASAMANG UGAT
9 DEATH WATCH
10 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 RESERVE
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 MASAMANG UGAT
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 BIGLANG LIKO

starmall Movies

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 DOWN WITH LOVE
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED
3 BIGLANG LIKO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) TERMINATOR-3
5 MASAMANG UGAT

METROPOLIS star

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 TERMINATOR-3
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 TUKAAN
4 MASAMANG UGAT
5 LIZZIE MCQUIRE
6 DOWN WITH LOVE

M star

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1 TERMINATOR-3
2 DUMB AND DUMBERER

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

JULY 20 TO 23
OPEN FOR EVENTS

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 THE HUNTED
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC

tel 930.9515

1
2
3

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 TERMINATOR-3
2 HAYOP SA MAGDAMAG
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS) MASAMANG UGAT
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED
5 IMPOSTOR
6 JACKASS THE MOVIE
7 (DTS) DOWN WITH LOVE
8 (SDDS) TERMINATOR-3
9 (DOLBY) LIZZIE MCGUIRE

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 MASAMANG UGAT
4 (SDDS) TERMINATOR-3
5 DOWN WITH LOVE
6 (DOLBY) LIZZIE MCGUIRE
7 (DTS) TERMINATOR-3
8 BABAE SA VIP ROOM
9 THE HUNTED

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1 DOWN WITH LOVE
2 (SDDS) TERMINATOR-3
3 (DTS) MASAMANG UGAT
4 (DOLBY) TERMINATOR-3
5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1 MASAMANG UGAT
2 DOWN WITH LOVE
3 (DTS) TERMINATOR-3
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED
5 (SDDS) TERMINATOR-3

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 MASAMANG UGAT

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 TERMINATOR-3

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson JAILBIRD
Lords BETTER THAN SEX
Jennet

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 TERMINATOR-3
2 DOWN WITH LOVE
3 DEATH WATCH
4 MASAMANG UGAT

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) TERMINATOR-3
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED
4 MASAMANG UGAT
5 DOWN WITH LOVE

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 A MAN APART
2 KAPIT BAHAY

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1 JACKASS THE MOVIE
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TERMINATOR 3
4 (SDDS) BANGKOK HAUNTED
5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6 DOWN WITH LOVE
7 IMPOSTOR

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926

1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DTS) TERMINATOR-3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7303

1 DOWN WITH LOVE
2 (DTS) LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 (DOLBY) TERMINATOR-3
4 MASAMANG UGAT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 DOWN WITH LOVE
2 (DOLBY) LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 (DTS) TERMINATOR-3
4 MASAMANG UGAT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 HOW TO LOST A GUYS IN 10 DAYS
3 (DOLBY) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 DUMB AND DUMBERER
2 28 DAYS LATER
3 (DOLBY) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2 (DTS) DUMB AND DUMBERER
3 MUNTING TINIG

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) MASAMANG UGAT
2 BIGLANG LIKO
3 (DTS) HINOG SA PILIT
4 TUKAAN

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) TERMINATOR-3
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DTS) DOWN WITH LOVE
4 DUMB AND DUMBERER
5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 TERMINATOR-3
2 DOWN WITH LOVE
3 TAMPISAW

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1 TERMINATOR-3
2 DOWN WITH LOVE
3 MASAMANG UGAT

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2 28 DAYS LATER
3 (DTS) DARKNESS FALLS
4 (DOLBY) CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 DUMB AND DUMBERER
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3 28 DAYS LATER
4 THE HUNTED

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-6001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX) TERMINATOR-3
2 28 DAYS LATER
3 (DTS-ES) LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 MASAMANG UGAT

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1 MASAMANG UGAT
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 (DOLBY) THE HUNTED
4 (DTS) TERMINATOR-3

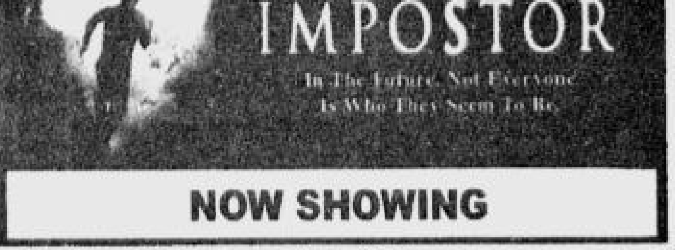
*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang

Tel. 85035-71 to 72

Schedule subject to change without prior notice



NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

4173868

1 THE HUNTED
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4 TERMINATOR 3
5 TERMINATOR 3
6 MASAMANG UGAT
7 JACKASS
8 DOWN WITH LOVE

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7161416

1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2 IMPOSTOR
3 TERMINATOR 3
4 MASAMANG UGAT
5 TERMINATOR 3
6 JACKASS
7 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8 DOWN WITH LOVE
9 BANGKOK HAUNTED
10 DEATH WATCH

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1 DEATH WATCH
2 JACKASS
3 28 DAYS LATER
4 TERMINATOR 3
5 MASAMANG UGAT
6 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
7 BANGKOK HAUNTED
8 DOWN WITH LOVE
9 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
10 TUKAAN
11 THE HUNTED
12 TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3 DOWN WITH LOVE
4 TERMINATOR 3
5 DEATH WATCH
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 IMPOSTOR
8 THE HUNTED
9 BANGKOK HAUNTED
10 DUMB & DUMBERER
11 JACKASS
12 MASAMANG UGAT

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6328401

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 TERMINATOR 3
3 HULK
4 DEATH WATCH
5 DOWN WITH LOVE
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7 THE HUNTED
8 IMPOSTOR
9 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
10 JACKASS
11 MASAMANG UGAT
12 BANGKOK HAUNTED

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1 IMPOSTOR
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED
3 MASAMANG UGAT
4 JACKASS
5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6 DOWN WITH LOVE
7 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8 TERMINATOR 3

SM SOUTHMALL

8086888

1 DOWN WITH LOVE
2 JACKASS
3 TERMINATOR 3
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 DEATH WATCH
7 MASAMANG UGAT
8 IMPOSTOR
9 TERMINATOR 3
10 BANGKOK HAUNTED

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3 THE HUNTED
4 DANCER IN THE DARK
5 28 DAYS LATER
6 PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
7 WILLARD
8 TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1 PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
2 RESERVED
3 TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT
4 THE HUNTED
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 RESERVED
8 REAL CANCUN

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 28 DAYS LATER
4 DUMB & DUMBERER
5 MASAMANG UGAT
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM SUPER CTR, SUCAT

8294975

1 MASAMANG UGAT
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 TERMINATOR 3
4 DOWN WITH LOVE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4 MASAMANG UGAT

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 DANCER IN THE DARK
3 CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUS MINDS
4 THE HUNTED
5 28 DAYS LATER
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 DOWN WITH LOVE
4 TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2804

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 REAL CANCUN
3 ADAPTATION
4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 TERMINATOR 3
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

2 DOWN WITH LOVE
12:10 FS/12:35 MF/2:40/4:45/6:50/8:55/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

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Niño on his marriage: It's hard to pretend

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

PEOPLE can speculate as much as they like about what went wrong in the marriage of **Niño Muhlach** and his wife **Edith**, and they can even give unsolicited advice, but only the husband and wife really know what's going on.

In show biz, after all, some couples have mastered the art of keeping up appearances.

At the end of every relationship, I ask myself if I'm giving up too soon or if I have been holding on for too long.

Maybe both Onin and Edith can try pondering on that, too. Marriage can take you to heaven and also to hell, but you can't stay stuck in limbo forever.

That's where Onin and Edith are right now: Neither here nor there.

As Onin puts it, "It's hard to pretend that we don't have problems because we do."

With their combined efforts, the battle is half won. Even if they have lost their pride, at least they haven't lost hope.

If both Onin and Edith want it badly enough for their marriage to work out, it will.

Duncan shakes Aliw

I HAD a blast at **Duncan Sheik's** acoustic concert at Aliw Theater with my daughter **Bianchi** and my sister **Clara**.

Special thanks to **Stephen Cu** of Eventscape for giving us tickets at such short notice.

Our very own acoustic wiz **Paolo Santos** and **Rockwell Ryan** of the band Stephen Speaks were the front act.

I have seen Paolo blossom as an artist since he started playing in our common hang-out, Friends@dsquare, and it made me feel so proud to watch him wow the jampacked crowd that night.

He truly has arrived!

Front acts for foreign artists usually get jeered because the audience get impatient, but not Paolo. He elicited thunderous applause and requests for an encore.

Paolo's debut album is now in the works and no doubt it will be a hit.

Rockwell sang some songs of Stephen Speaks as well as cuts form his upcoming solo album to be released in September by Warner Music. I thoroughly enjoyed his rendition of "Sunshine," his remake of the well-loved children's song: "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. You make me happy when skies are grey. You'll never know dear how much I love you. Please don't take my sunshine away."

He added his own lines to give the song a new twist. It's the type of song you would go for when you are in a karaoke mood.

The main man of the show, Duncan Sheik, charmed his fans with his soothing voice, cool guitar strumming and deadly smiles. There was nothing pretentious about him. Even the stage was *sans artifice*. The simple row of lighted candles interspersed with the colorful lighting effects set the laid-back mood for a romantic evening.

When Duncan sang his two most popular songs, "On a High," and my personal favorite, "Barely Breathing," the crowd went berserk. His adoring female fans could not get enough of him as he gamely posed for the flashing 7650s all around him.

The ban on cameras was forgotten because everybody just got lost in Duncan's music. As his hit song goes, everybody went home on a high.

'Nuts'

IF you are an avid "Nuts Entertainment" viewer like me, don't miss their July 23 episode, "Krimen." Guest stars are **Nancy Castiglione**, **Aleck Bovick** and the band Siakol. How boring life would be if you're not even just a bit naughty and nutty.

Just asking

COULD it be true that **Anne Curtis** and **Richard Gutierrez** are already on but are keeping their romance a secret so as not to ruin Richard's love team with **Chynna Ortaleza**? Since the **Guy-Pip/Vi-Bobot** days, love teams, more often than not, have just been schemes. Paging Richard's lovable manager, **Jun Lalin**! Fill us in on the official score, please.

How true are murmurs that a young actress, who is also an endorser of a clothing line, had an abortion a few weeks ago and her young actor boyfriend got enraged when he learned about it?

Personal

BIRTHDAY cheers to my coolest guy friend, **Jay Server**. Thanks for turning everything into fun!

Happy birthday to one buddy who always looks out for me. Chammy!

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com.

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IMPOSTOR PG13 1:30,3:35,5:40, 7:45,9:50	BANGKOK HAUNTED R13 1:20,4:00, 6:40,9:30	JACKASS R18 1:20, 3:10

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GP

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	JACKASS THE MOVIE
Ali 2	MASAMANG UGAT
Ali 3	TERMINATOR 3
Ali 4	BANGKOK HAUNTED
Ali 5	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
Ali 6	DOWN WITH LOVE
Ali 7	IMPOSTOR

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JULY 25	DON MOEN CONCERT
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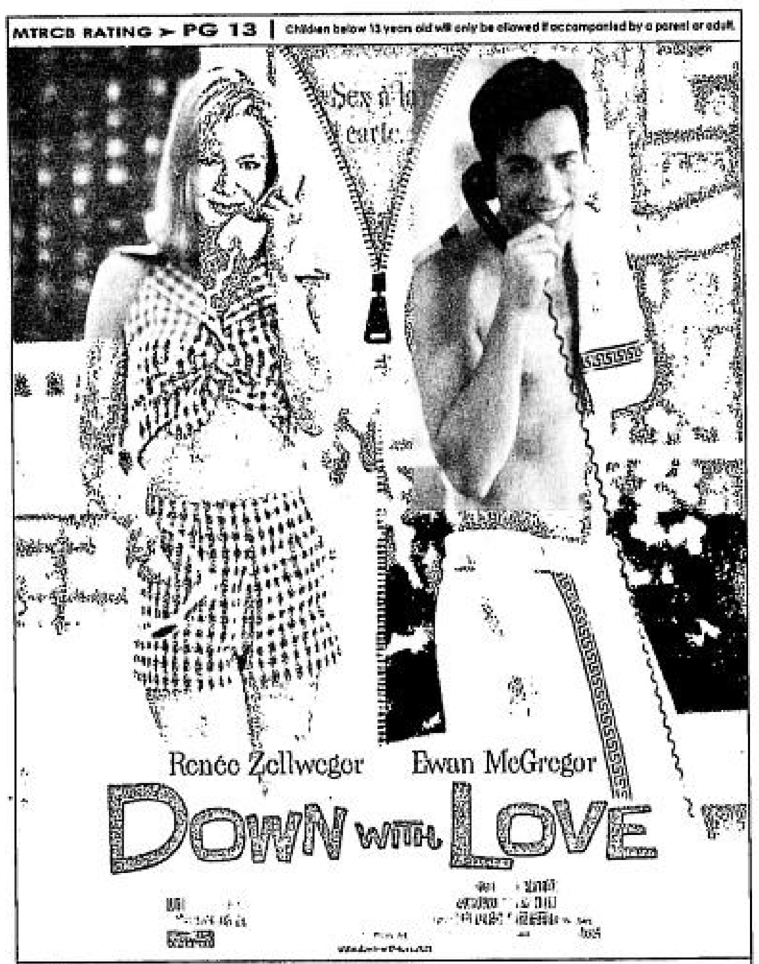
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	UNFAITHFUL CUNCUBINE/KANA 2
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TERMINATOR 3
B	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DUMB & DUMBERER
CINEMA-2	HUNTED
CINEMA-3	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATTOR 3
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
CINEMA-6	TUKAAN
CINEMA-7	HOT SPOT
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DOWN WITH LOVE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATTOR 3
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
CINEMA-12	JACKASS
CINEMA-14	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-15	BANGKOK HANUTED
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	CHARLIE S ANGELS 2
CINEMA 2	DARKNESS FALLS
CINEMA 3	A MAN APART
CINEMA 4	28 DAYS LATER
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.



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Miranda was screened at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival.

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JULY 23 (Wednesday)

SCREENING SCHEDULES
Glorietta 1 Cinema 1 - 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
Glorietta 4 Cinema 1 - 6:40, 9:10
Glorietta 4 Cinema 3 (THX/GSC) - 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
Glorietta 4 Cinema 6 - 6:00, 8:30, 11:00
Greenbelt 1 Cinema 2 - 6:00, 8:15
Greenbelt 3 Cinema 1 (THX/GSC) - 5:25, 7:50, 10:15
Greenbelt 3 Cinema 2 (THX/GSC) - 6:00, 8:25, 10:50
Greenbelt 3 Cinema 5 - 6:35, 9:00, 11:25
Alabang Town Center Cinema 1 (THX) - 6:20, 8:30, 10:40
Alabang Town Center Cinema 2 - 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
Alabang Town Center Cinema 3 - 5:00, 7:10, 9:20

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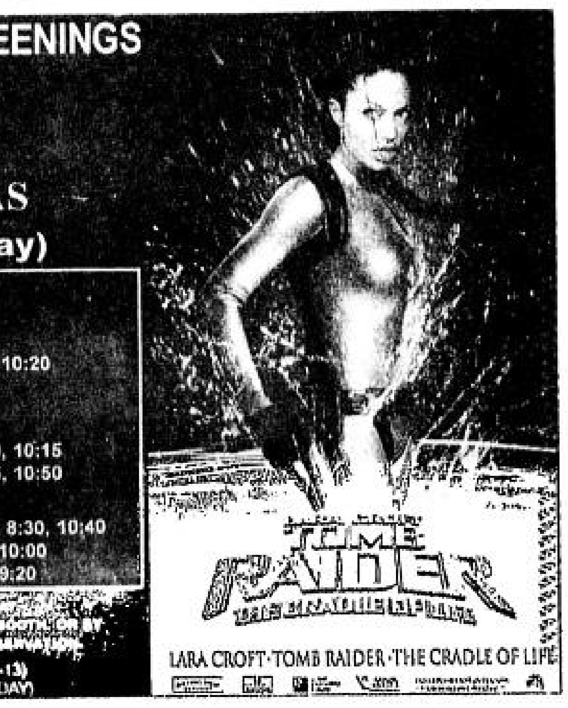

TOMB RAIDER
LARA CROFT · TOMB RAIDER · THE CRADLE OF LIFE

The Hollywoodization of Filipino movies

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THIS month's Sangandaan Festival at the CCP has some film components, one of which was last Wednesday's forum on Hollywood's influence on Filipino films. The event fielded film experts **Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.** and **Mario Hernando**, who enlightened a largely student audience on seminal events and influences that first manifested themselves long before most of the members of the audience were born.

The influence of Hollywood on local movies, filmmaking styles and audience preferences is an important topic that needs to be discussed in detail because it helps explain why Filipino films are the way they are.

The key phrase in this regard is cultural imprinting. It's no accident that, after the American occupation of the country, most of our imported film fare came from the United States. This was the colonizers' way of holding up US-related ideals before our grandfathers' eyes, so that, in due time, Filipino filmmakers aped American film products in their own productions.

Thus, the preference for fair-skinned, aquiline-nosed stars, clear-cut conflicts between true-blue heroes and dastardly villains, forthright storytelling, moral lessons," "message" films, and filmmaking conventions that still characterize some of our movies to this day.

Audience preferences are even more vulnerable in this regard. Since local viewers get to see mostly American productions, they are bearers of the USA's cultural imprint, and have been subliminally "programmed" to prefer big blockbusters to the more intimate and personal dramas that European filmmakers prefer to produce.

This preference makes it difficult for small local or foreign movies to be released or distributed in this country. This ups the ante when it comes to movie budgets, and this is another factor that prevents independent companies or self-financed filmmakers from making much of a headway in the local movie scene.

It would really be much better for everyone if mainstream film theaters here could be opened up to movies, not just from the States, but also from Europe, other Asian countries and Latin American film territories.

That way, viewers here can finally realize that there's more to filmmaking than Hollywood. This would drastically broaden their perspective and enrich their outlook, making them true citizens of the film world, rather than the Hollywood devotees that they have become.

MMCO concert

ON FRIDAY, July 25, the ongoing MCO Arts Festival 2003 features the Metro Manila Community Orchestra under **Chino Toledo**, with soloist **Aldrin Sison** (flutist). Venue is the Franciso Santiago Hall of Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Avenue corner H.V. de la Costa Street. Programme includes pieces by San Pedro, Britten, Ibert and Dvorak. Call 818-1403.

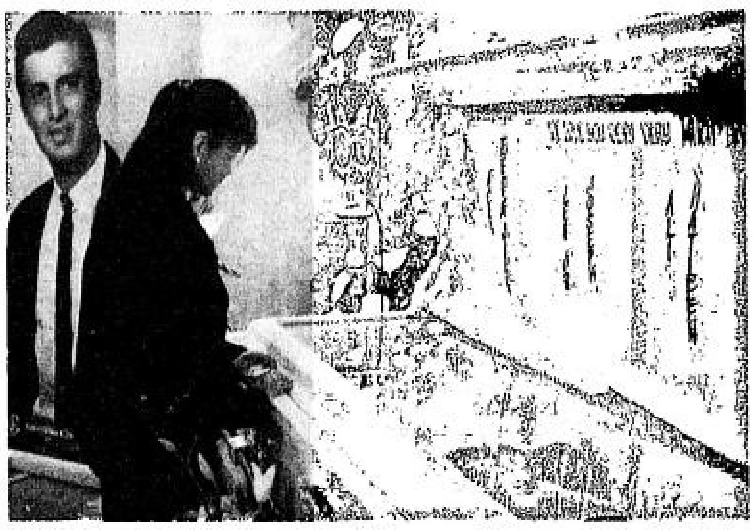
The rest of the MCO Arts Festival: August, "With a Song in My Heart: A Tribute to Richard Rodgers" and the Clarion Chamber Ensemble. September, "Salvado Filipino," showcasing Filipino ballet choreography.

October, "Flute and Opera," the Clarion Chamber Ensemble and pianist **Aries Cases** in concert.

November, pianist **Cristine Coyiuto** in concert. And in December, the UST Singers.

Ramirez got daughter's forgiveness

By Marinel R. Cruz



FATHER and daughter together. "He opened his eyes and smiled" at her in his deathbed.
RUDY ESPERAS

ACTRESS Beverly Vergel was at the bedside of her father Cesar Ramirez when he died, telling him she had forgiven him for abandoning his family.

"His dad was already in a coma, but when Bev told her dad that she has learned to forgive and forget, he opened his eyes and smiled at her," recalled Msgr. Albert Venus, Beverly's best friend.

He said Ramirez passed away several minutes after Beverly gave her forgiveness.

Ramirez (real name, Arlen Aguilar) died of cardiac arrest at 6:30 a.m. last Saturday at the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City. He was 78. He had been in a coma since July 17.

Ramirez moved to the United States after he broke up with his actress-wife, Alicia Vergel, in 1975, leaving her with their young children, Ace and Beverly, who grew up without a father.

"While Ace could still remember the times he spent with their dad, Bev was too young to remember him," said the priest. "But she thanked him for bringing her into this world and told him not to worry about her and Ace."

Ace said he regretted not having the time to accompany his father to Luneta (Rizal) Park. "I only found out recently from my father's helper, Len-len, that he wanted to see the sunset in Luneta and eat *balut*."

In an earlier interview, Ace had said Ramirez had been battling Parkinson's disease since he returned from the US two years ago. With the help of a physical therapist, Ramirez was able to walk unaided barely a year later.

"He had a heart attack just when he was starting to win the battle against Parkinson's disease," said Ace Sunday night at his father's wake at the St. Carmel Church in New Manila, Quezon City.

Ramirez's body will be cremated after a 1 p.m. Mass today, not July 29 as earlier reported.

Paying their last respects Sunday night were couple Robert Arevalo and Barbara Perez, German Moreno and his nephew John Knight, and young stars Shaina Magdayao and Angelica Panganiban.

Vic Vargas did not want wake and viewing

By Jocelyn Valle

ACTOR Vic Vargas did not want a wake, so that after he died last Saturday afternoon, his body was immediately brought to the Funeraria Paz at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque and was cremated that same night. Around midnight Saturday, his ashes were already in a wooden brown box that has carvings of a tree and a flock of birds flying toward the setting sun.

When people came to condole with the bereaved, what they found was the box of ashes standing beside a framed publicity photo of the actor (real name, Jose Ma. Marfori Asuncion) from his debut movie in 1962, "Diegong Tabak."

"He didn't want a wake," his wife Rosanna Zamora told INQUIRER Entertainment after a Mass last Sunday afternoon. "He used to tell Jane (Asuncion, the late actor's daughter from his first marriage) how he wanted to go. He didn't like people looking at him when he was already dead. *Baka mapintasan pa raw*," Zamora added. "But he looked good in death. *Para lang siyang natutulog.*"

Zamora said Jane was to bring home the actor's ashes, which would later be brought to Vargas' eldest child in the US.

Zamora thanked those who condoled with them, including Vargas' colleagues from show business like Fernando Poe Jr., Susan Roces, Boots Anson-Roa who lost her father on the same day, Melanie Marquez, Boots Bautista and friends from Subic, where Vargas had lived for years.

Moreno joked through the pain

From page A24

called him 'Mr. Batbat' because he was a practical joker. He would utter words unintelligibly so that his listener would respond to him with 'ha?' And then he would laugh out loud."

Pambabatbat is a Pinoy way of eliciting laughter when a speaker mischievously mumbles meaningless words so his listeners would respond "ha?" asking the speaker what his exact words were.

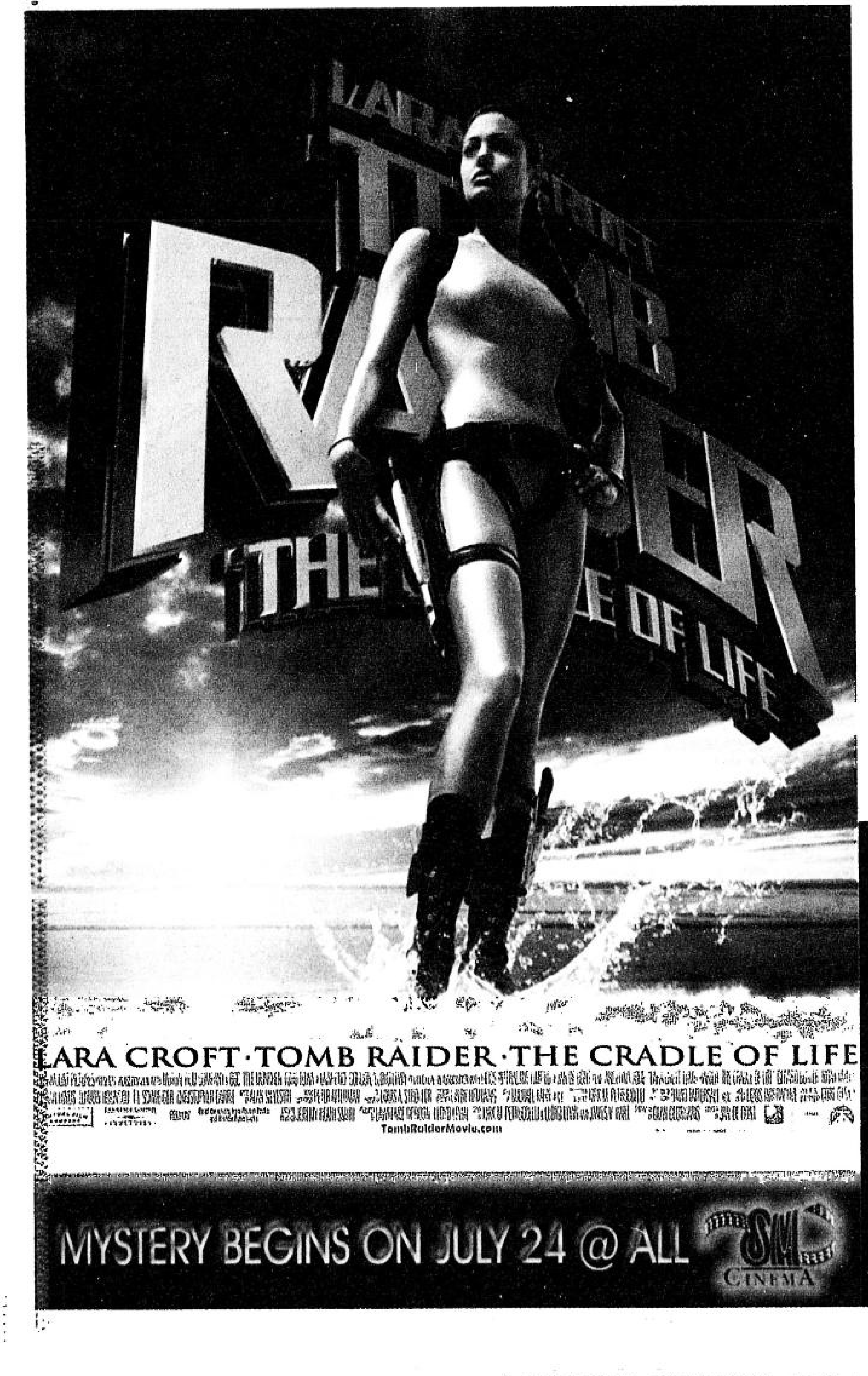
"We used to go out often, *inom at* chicks *paminsan-minsan*," said Moreno's youngest brother, Luis. "He was a father and brother to me."

Luis, now based in Texas, said he was visiting relatives in Camalig, Albay, when he learned of his brother's death last Saturday afternoon.

"We had been expecting this," he said of his brother's passing. "His health had long been deteriorating anyway. What's important is that he had lived the life he wanted."

Moreno's remains will be cremated on Thursday after a 10 a.m. Mass.

His ashes will be brought to the Anson crypt at the Sacred Heart Church in Makati, where the urns containing the ashes of his parents, Ramon Anson and Elisa Gamboa, are also kept.



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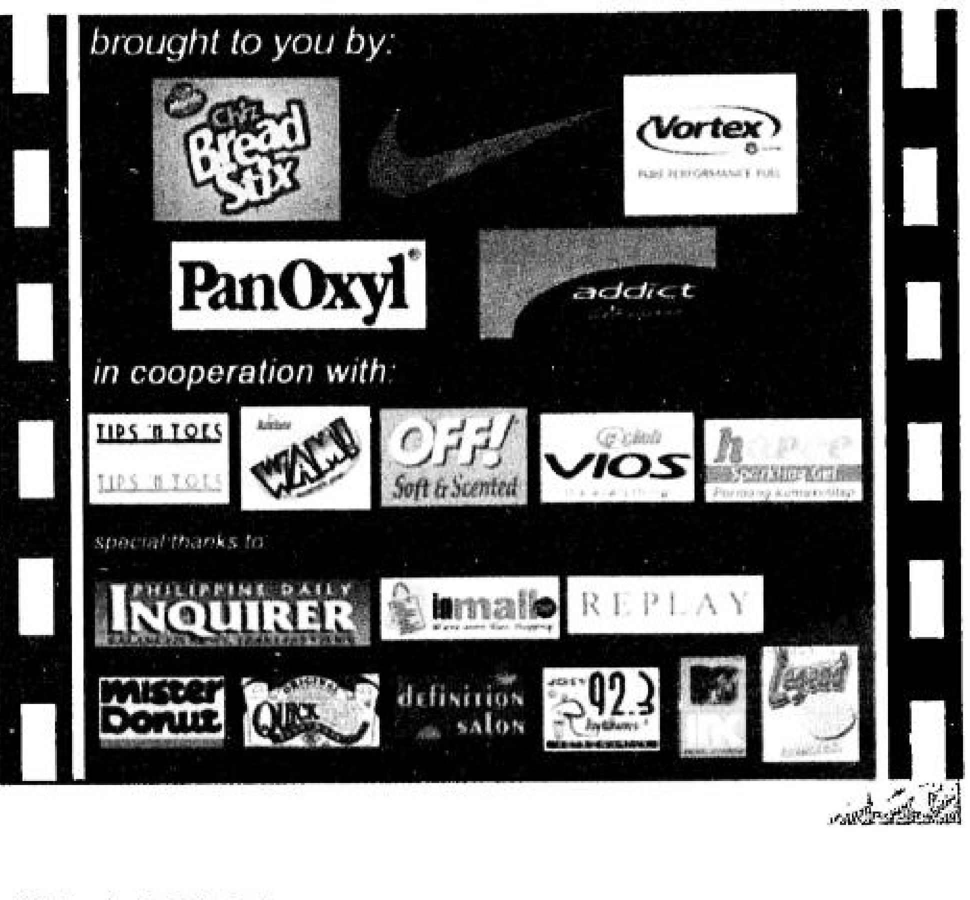

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Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Moreno cracked jokes through the pain

'Allergic ako sa magaganda,' he told ICU nurses

"PEOPLE in heaven better watch out for him because no one could beat him at mahjong and cards," says Pete Roa, husband of Moreno's daughter Boots (above). RUDY ESPERAS

By Marinel R. Cruz

FORMER matinee idol Oscar Moreno had been undergoing dialysis six times a day and was in great pain at the time of his death, but he even joked with the nurses in the intensive care unit.

"He was rushed to the hospital because he had chest pains and couldn't breathe," recalled Moreno's son-in-law, Pete Roa, husband of Moreno's actress daughter Boots Anson-Roa. "But when he got to the ICU, he requested for a TV set and joked around with the nurses.

"He would tell them, '*Alam ninyo*, allergic *ako sa mga magaganda.*' That was his classic pick-up line."

Moreno's body lies in state at Funeraria Paz in Quezon City. Named Oscar Gamboa Anson in real life, Moreno died of cardiac arrest Saturday morning at the National Kidney Institute, also in Quezon City. He was 82.

Complications from liver and kidney ailments triggered the heart attack, his daughter Boots had said earlier.

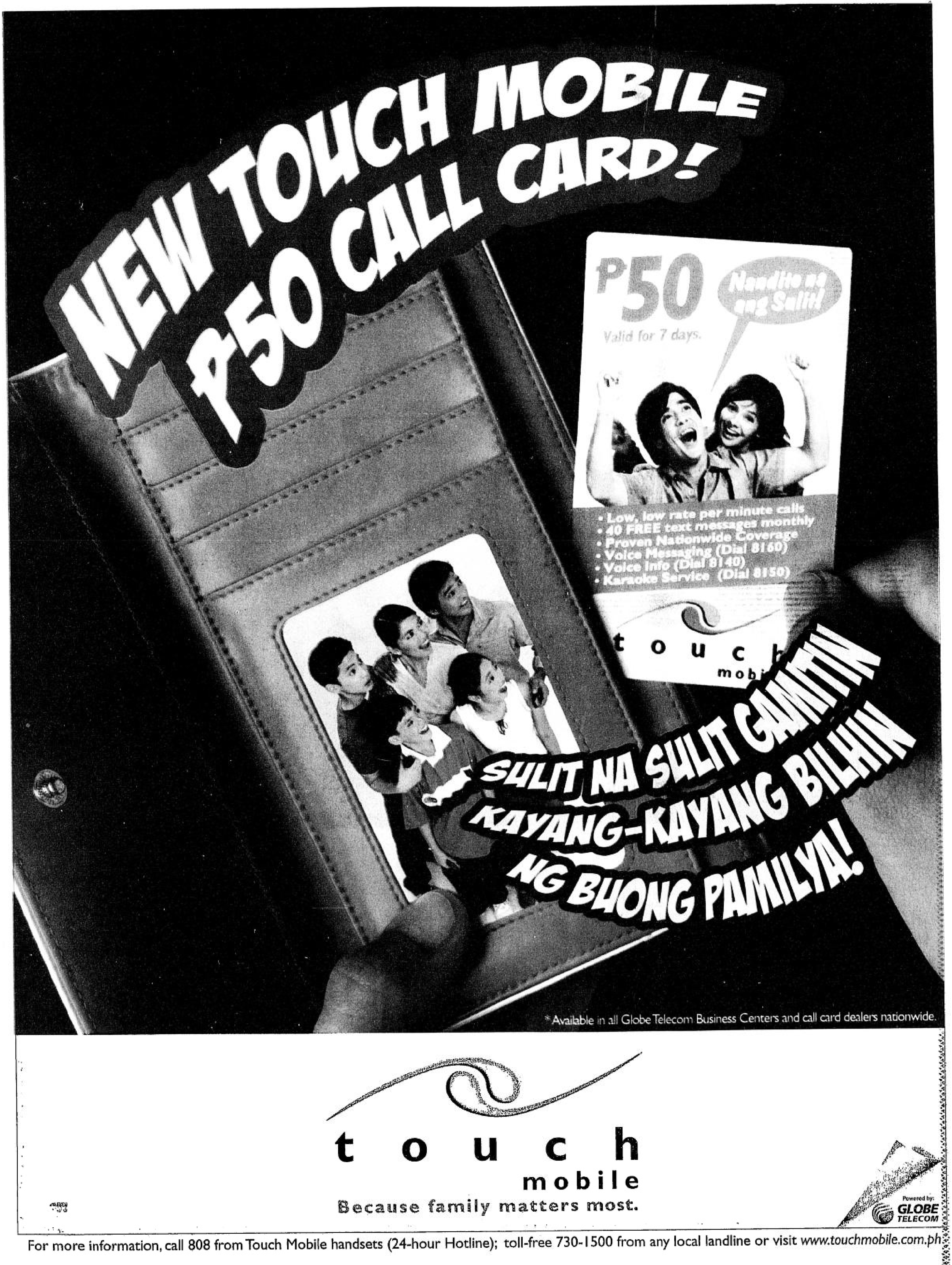
Moreno's heart stopped thrice, but doctors decided not to revive him at 4:15 a.m., according to Pete.

He said his father-in-law loved playing cards and mahjong. "None of us could beat him," he said. "People in heaven better watch out for him."

Eddie Gutierrez said he had fun shooting "Binibiro Lamang Kita" with Moreno in 1960 in Baguio City. Moreno starred opposite Carmen Rosales in "Binibiro."

"He would always make us laugh," Eddie remembered Sunday night when he went to the wake with his wife Annabel Rama. "He was naughty on the set." recalled Eddie. "We

MORENO/ A23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T-bill rates drop; bigger auction set

By Clarissa S. Batino

TREASURY bill rates fell across the board at yesterday's auction, with the average rate for the bellwether 91-day issue falling to 5.168 percent from 5.33 percent, the Bureau of Treasury said.

"It is clear that market liquidity has returned. The full effect of the rate cut is now being felt," National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said.

Tenders totaled P12.21 billion against an offering volume of P6.5 billion.

Bids on the 91-day bills ranged from 5 to 5.25 percent, with total tenders amounting to P5.3 billion, against an offer of P3 billion.

The 182-day rate averaged 6.355 percent, marginally lower than the previous 6.356 percent average, with the Treasury accepting P1.25 billion of total tenders worth P2.7 billion, against an offering volume of P2 billion. Bids ranged from 6.25 to 6.45 percent.

Given the market's seemingly lack of appetite for six-month notes, Edeza said the Treasury might reduce the volume of the 182-day notes by P1 billion and distribute P500 million each to the three-month and one-year debt papers.

The Treasury awarded in full its P1.5-billion offer of 364-day bills, against total tenders of P4.2 billion.

The 364-day rate averaged 6.742 percent, against 6.814 percent previously, on bids ranging from 6.625 to 6.875 percent.

Meantime, Edeza said the government would resume its regular offering of treasury bills in August as investors have started returning to the market after digesting a huge bond offering in June.

"We're going back to P9.5 billion offering in August," Edeza told reporters after the government's fortnightly treasury bill auction.

The Bureau of Treasury cut back its offering in July to P6.5 billion after the government raised P74 billion through retail treasury bonds in June.

The successful sale of bonds geared toward retail investors also prompted the government to announce that it was reducing its planned offshore borrowing for the remainder of the year to $400 million from $900 million.

From August, the Treasury will offer P4 billion of 91-day treasury bills, P2.5 billion of 182-day paper and P3 billion of 364-day issue.

"We also plan to conduct the auctions weekly to lighten the maturity every week. We could sell 91-day and 182-day in one week and sell 364-day the next week," Edeza said.

As local interest rates remained modest, Edeza said the government would source the bulk of its 2004 financing requirements from the domestic market.

The Macapagal administration had said it would source 80 percent of its P165-billion requirement for next year from the local market given the low interest rates.

Meralco gets debt relief from banks

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DISTRIBUTION giant Manila Electric Co. gained a respite yesterday as creditors agreed to a partial payment of its P5.5 billion in short-term debts with the remainder being rolled over for a maximum of six months, company president Jesus Francisco said.

In a telephone interview, Francisco said Meralco had in effect secured a new agreement for a lower amount since "a little" portion of the principal would be paid off.

The Meralco chief operating officer declined to give details pending a company disclosure that, as of press time, had yet to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

But he said the six-month reprieve was a best-case scenario since the lenders—Citibank, BPI Capital, Equitable-PCI and Banco de Oro—could ask for a repayment after three months.

"The interest rates for the debts were changed but these will be reviewed in (October)," Francisco said. "The rates could go up or down as a result of that review."

He explained that it was through such review that the creditors would determine whether the rest of the loans would be extended up to January.

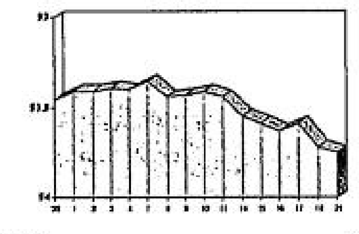
"The provision for an extension up to six months basically satisfies (Meralco's) wish for better terms for a rollover," Francisco said.

This is the second rollover for Meralco's short-term debts that first matured in April. The creditors granted a three-month extension up to July 21.

The extension of the loans eased pressured on Meralco, which is facing a tight cash flow due to a Supreme Court-ordered, multibillion-peso refund to customers.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



JUNE JULY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 53.75 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., July 21, 2003

¥ 118.96 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., July 18, 2003

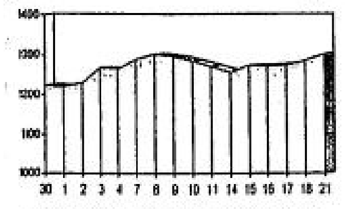
GOLD: $$347.75 *(AP)*

per ounce Hong Kong, July 18, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JUNE JULY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares end higher on bargain-hunting

SHARES ended higher yesterday on follow-through bargain-hunting, traders said.

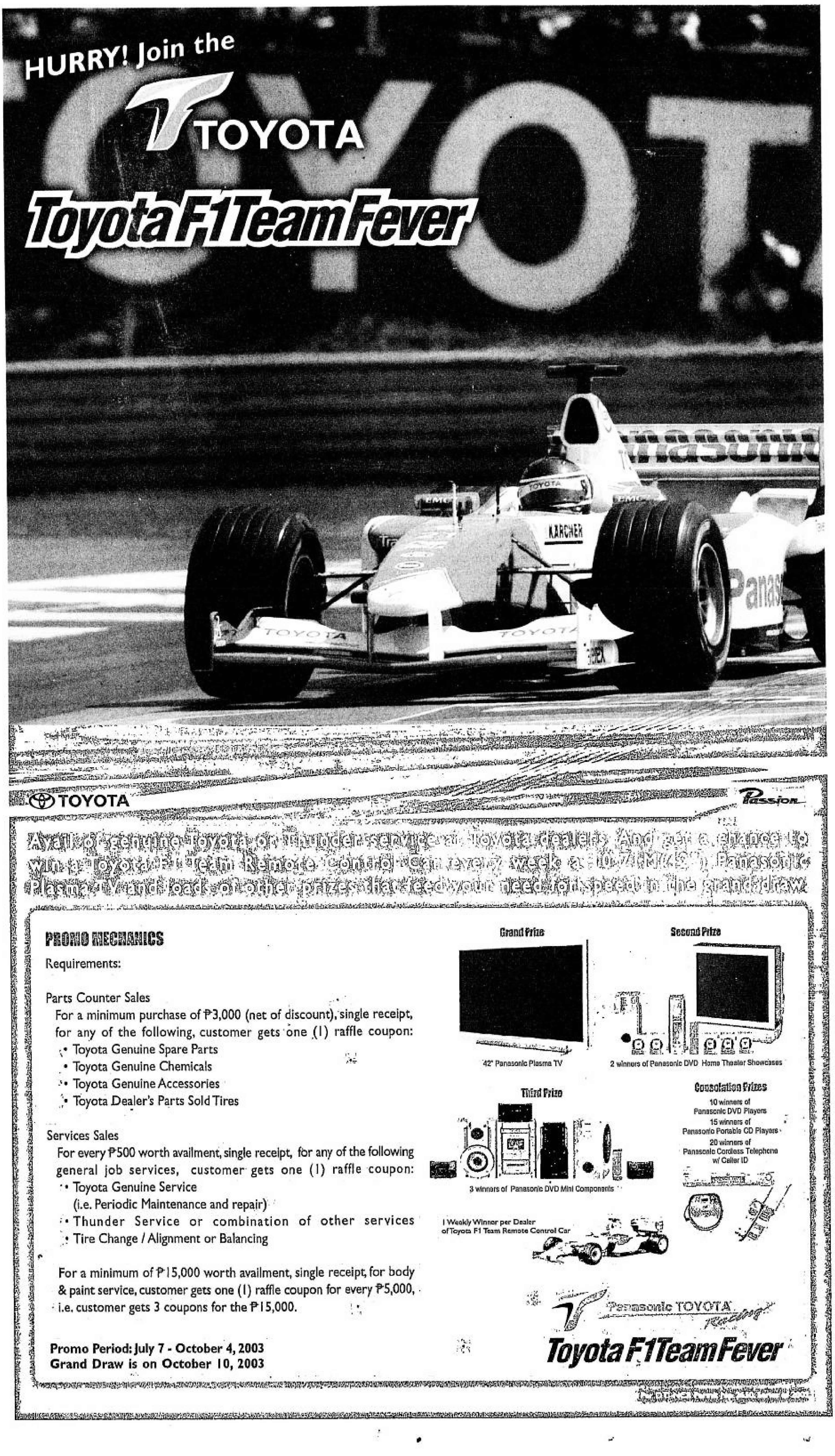
The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 15.88 points, or 1.2 percent, at 1300.87, adding to Friday's 0.8-percent gain.

Blue chip Benpres was among the most actively traded stocks, up 7 centavos, or 9 percent, at P0.85.

First-half financial reports are expected to start streaming in next week.

The absence of negative news also kept the window of opportunity for bargain-hunters open.

Gainers led decliners 57 to 15, while 43 issues were unchanged.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Parts Counter Sales

For a minimum purchase of ₱3,000 (net of discount), single receipt, for any of the following, customer gets one (1) raffle coupon:

- Toyota Genuine Spare Parts
- Toyota Genuine Chemicals
- Toyota Genuine Accessories
- Toyota Dealer's Parts Sold Tires

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For every ₱500 worth availment, single receipt, for any of the following general job services, customer gets one (1) raffle coupon:

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  (i.e. Periodic Maintenance and repair)
- Thunder Service or combination of other services
- Tire Change / Alignment or Balancing

For a minimum of ₱15,000 worth availment, single receipt, for body & paint service, customer gets one (1) raffle coupon for every ₱5,000, i.e. customer gets 3 coupons for the ₱15,000.

Promo Period: July 7 - October 4, 2003
Grand Draw is on October 10, 2003

The market is looking up

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

ERAP has asked to be transferred to the open prison at Camp Crame. Perhaps his request will be granted if Al-Ghozi well.

I saw Tiger Woods limping round the golf course on the first day and I thought it was his knee. But the commentator informed viewers that he had lost his ball at the first hole. No wonder he looked so testy.

After Men in Black and Men in Tights comes the sequel, meningitis.

Kraft just announced better-than-expected earnings but they are worried about receiving a lawsuit for their high cholesterol products. So its latest cheese, Kraft and Corruption, contains 25-percent less fat and no pork.

Taiwan entered several strong players in the 2003 World Pool Championship. However, there are none left in the Taiping pool.

The Tour de France is a cycling contest over a long distance, lasting several weeks. The French Minister of the Environment is insisting that it be recycled.

Stephen Spielberg is partnering with Procter and Gamble to produce a soap opera called Meatier Gardens. Sounds offal. It is basically for women but he does not wish to deter-gents from watching. He must not alienate anyone.

Here is an interesting trivia: 80 percent of all married men cheat in America. The rest cheat in Asia.

"Why are you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?"

"I married the wrong man."

The President announced that the Philippines has more seamen than any other country. No wonder we have the highest birth rate in Asia.

* * *

NOW that the market is looking more interesting, I will cut down on the jokes and concentrate on the big picture. Alan Greenspan made two speeches before the Senate and Congress. He indicated that the recession was now over but he could not quantify the extent of the recovery nor the time frame. As a result, the DOW fell 2 days in a row but rallied strongly on Friday. Foreign money continues to flow into our stock market at an average rate of P50 million a day.

TEL announced its results on Wednesday and shook analysts by writing off P3.5 billion. Termination notices were issued to employees and 1,759 heads rolled. The P1.3 billion represented severance pay. The company is also writing off P2.2 billion related to investments in a satellite company and Home Cable. Nevertheless, Mr. Pangilinan still hopes to make P10 billion for the year, so obviously SMART is doing extremely well and together with Piltel, they pulled in nearly a million new subscribers, many of them in the provinces.

Of the P6.7 billion earned in the first half, P6.1 billion came from SMART so our Research Department has raised its forecast for 2003 and 2004. UBS Warburg has upgraded the shares from a HOLD to a BUY with a one-year price target of P750, dead in line with our own estimate. At P555, the degree of risk was only 20, so we sent it out as a STRONG BUY and it is now P575. The resistance level of P600 should not prove an impenetrable barrier and should be broken in the coming weeks.

PLDT has cut the rate on its prepaid mobile phone cards from P12 to P6.50 a minute and this should boost sales of its Touch card. It is also going to sell cards for as little as P50 instead of its current minimum of P100. For 2003, UBS Warburg has increased their profit forecast for SMART from P11.4 billion to P12.6 billion, and for 2004, from P13 billion to P14.2 billion. The write-offs came as a surprise but they do not affect the company's cash flow or future earnings. It merely projects a more accurate balance sheet.

On the economic front, the government announced a deficit of P79.6 billion for the first 6 months so they should easily beat their target of P202 billion for the year. My own estimate last month was a deficit of P180 billion but tax collections have been improving steadily in recent months so even this might be improved upon. As a result, a $500 million in bonds for Napocor was well oversubscribed and the government sold $750 million. There are ongoing negotiations for a further $250 million so the central bank has little need for further overseas borrowing and next year, they expect to raise 80 percent of their funding requirements from local lenders, who are very liquid and desperate to get a decent return.

Last week, the 91-day treasury bill yielded 5.33 percent and this is the benchmark on which borrowing rates are based. This week, it fell to 5.17 percent, which is good for all companies with large local debt. The central bank feels confident enough to ease restrictions on forward contracts, introduced in March after the peso had fallen to a record low. Lifting the 6-month limit may fuel demand for dollars and weaken the peso in the short-term.

Dr. Mark Faber, who runs the Templeton Fund, which has $100 million in Asia, is known as Doctor Doom because he is usually bearish (rightly so). Last week, he wrote, "Markets here in Asia, unlike the US, have built an extended base following the collapse in 1997. From this base, we can have a substantial bull market in the years ahead. If you look at the world, the Asian region actually looks the most attractive. International portfolios have neglected Asia in the last couple of years. Fund managers have most of their money in the US and Europe, and I think that international money flows will come to Asia. I am very positive about the Asian region in terms of stock market performance. The Philippines looks very interesting from a near-term point of view. It has lagged behind but has started performing better in the last 2 months. I like the real estate companies." Coming from Dr. Doom, this represents a complete turnaround. He remains pessimistic about the US over the long-term.

Imports in MAY rose 12 percent as electronic manufacturers bought more components in preparation for a rise in overseas orders for disk drives and mobile phone components. This reverses the downtrend of the previous 2 months and explains the dramatic rise in the shares of IONICS. Rising imports will put pressure on the peso but indicates that the economy is picking up. In about 6 months from now, we should see rising exports.

If we are really at the beginning of a long-term bull market, we have to reassess at what level we are willing to buy, using the degree of risk on 30 stocks, published every Friday in my daily newsletter. It is too much to hope that it will fall to the oversold level of 20, and we should be thinking of upgrading it to a higher level.

Followers of KAGI will have bought all stocks close to the bottom and not yet received any SELL signals, so they should be making close to 30 percent in 2 months. When a trend remains strong for several months, Kagi is the only indicator, which will keep you in throughout the rise and get you out close to the top.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

Prudential to buy 67% SPI stake

By Doris C. Dumlao

A UNIT of UK-based insurance giant Prudential Plc. has offered to acquire a 66.7-percent stake in local IT service provider SPI Technologies for $84 million, which excludes the latter's eTelecare call center business.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, SPI chief finance officer Francisco Suarez said SPI and its controlling shareholders had signed a "non-binding" and "conditional" letter of intent to sell their shares to PPM Ventures Ltd. (PPMV).

PPMV is a leading source of private equity finance with some two billion euros under its investment portfolio. It specializes in medium and large buy-outs and institutional purchases, with offices in London, Munich, Paris, Hong Kong, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney and Tokyo.

"Subject to the fulfillment of various conditions, a tender offer to acquire all of the issued and to be issued share capital of SPI will be made through a newly incorporated company to be established in the Philippines on behalf of client funds managed by PPMV," Suarez said.

PPMV's offered $84 million for the share capital of SPI or about P14.26 per share.

SPI's shares closed higher at P17.25 at the stock market yesterday after opening at P15.75 on news of the potential tender offer, which would require PPMV to likewise offer to buy out shares held by other minority shareholders.

In a separate disclosure, A. Soriano Corp. which owns 12-percent of SPI, said it would sell its stake along with the controlling shareholders if PPMV's offer would push through.

Once the deal is consummated, SPI would become a privately held company. The divesting shareholders, on the other hand, would still control call center unit eTelecare, which would be spun off.

"The Board of Directors of SPI also resolved to consider how to maximize the value of these eTelecare shares, including the possibility of listing them on the PSE," Suarez said.

The unaudited book value of SPI's shareholding in eTelecare as of June 30, 2003 stood at P379.4 million, representing P1.22 per SPI share.

PNB bad loans ease to 49%

THE PHILIPPINE National Bank, the country's fourth largest private bank, said on Monday that its parent level non-performing loans (NPLs) eased to 49 percent of its total loans portfolio as of June 19 this year, from 53 percent as of March.

A statement of condition, published in a local newspaper, showed that PNB's parent level NPLs at June 19 totaled P48.55 billion ($907 million).

In an interview yesterday, PNB executive vice president Omar Mier explained that the NPL ratio went down due to a change in the method of computation in the loan base, which combined treasury and inter-bank receivables with regular commercial loans, resulting in a wider base.

Mier said the 49-percent NPL ratio was computed against a loan base of P99 billion, which combines regular loans with treasury and inter-bank receivables.

"But if you look at regular loans, which are about P79 billion, the ratio is still roughly at 60 percent," Mier said.

Mier said PNB expected the NPL ratio to slow down to 48-49 percent as a ratio of regular commercial loans—or those lent out to consumers and corporate clients—by the end of the year.

"You won't see the fruits of restructuring until six or nine months after, so you'll see efforts realized only by the second half of the year," Mier stressed.

Under Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas regulations, he said restructured loans could be converted to "current" status only after six months.

"We expect our NPL ratio to drop to P38 billion and assuming our (regular) loan portfolio remains at P80 billion, that means a 48-49 percent ratio," Mier said.

When reporting to the PNB board, Mier said he preferred to use the NPL level as a ratio to regular loans because these are the receivables that were more controllable compared to inter-bank receivables and treasury advances.

Doris C. Dumlao

INTEREST RATES

April 8, 2003
MART 1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 July 21, 2003 (%)	MART1 July 18, 2003 (%)
1 Month	6.2536	6.2500
3 Months	6.2518	6.2607
6 Months	6.8350	7.2518
1 Year	7.3117	7.8703
2 Years	8.6067	8.7100
3 Years	9.2417	9.3133
4 Years	9.7617	9.8417
5 Years	9.9983	10.0880
7 Years	10.8983	10.9500
10 Years	11.3063	11.3710
20 Years	11.9392	11.9408
25 Years	12.2933	12.3150

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

DISCLOSURES

APC Group Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 26, 2 p.m. at the Discovery Suites, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of July 25 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

JARDINE Davies Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 22, 2 p.m. at the 3/F Buendia Room of Mondragon House, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of July 7 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

FIL-ESTATE Land Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 30, 8:30 a.m. at the Santan Function Room of Shangri-La's EDSA Plaza Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Only stockholders of record as of June 20 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

***

SWIFT Foods Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 29, 10:30 a.m. at the Penthouse of RFM Corporate Center, Mandaluyong City. Only stockholders of record as of July 11 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

***

ELECTED directors of **Makati Finance Corp.** were Isidro Benitez, Juan Carlos del Rosario, Teresita Benitez, Rene Benitez, Michael Wee, Chia Yan Heng, Joel Ferrer, Mariano Limjap, Augusto Nilo, Maximo Borromeo and Emmanuel Laforteza.

***

UNIOIL Resources and Holdings Co. Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Aug. 8 to Oct. 3. ***Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 21, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	5	5	50,000
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.5	19	19.5	80,000
Bank Of The Phil. Islands	48	48.5	48	48	236,700
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	15,600
First E-Bank Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	31	31.5	121,700
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	6,340
Philippine National Bank	25	25	24.5	25	54,500
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	6,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	37,500
Union Bank Of The Phil.	21.75	22.5	21.75	22.5	255,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.46	1.46	181,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1455	1470	1455	1470	1,810
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.5	1.52	1.44	1.44	2,596,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1045	1050	1045	1050	1,410
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22	22	21.75	21.75	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.73	3,130,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	715	740	715	740	39,270
Ipeople, Inc	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.93	450,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.0575	0.0575	4,300,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	5,700,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.59	0.64	0.58	0.64	28,010,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	130,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	570	575	560	575	94,540
Ivantage Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	280,000
Vivant Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	30,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	67,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	13.5	12.75	13.25	450,500
Manila Electric Co. B	18.5	19	18.5	18.75	1,064,200
Petron Corp.	2.28	2.28	2.26	2.26	900,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	310,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	524,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	60,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.45	0.53	0.45	0.53	300,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.38	2.38	2.38	2.38	1,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	450,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	4,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	47,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4	4	4	4	4,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29	29.5	4,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	173,000
Rfm Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	110,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52	52	51.5	52	71,200
San Miguel Corp. B	60	61	59.5	61	111,800
Universal Robina Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	15,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6	6	6	6	4,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.36	0.34	0.35	70,000
Ayala Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	2,862,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	50,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.038	0.041	0.037	0.039	31,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	10,000,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.9	1.9	50,000
Atn Holdings Inc. B	1.7	1.76	1.7	1.76	30,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	290,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.81	0.87	0.81	0.85	40,770,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	990,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1,100,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.235	410,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	5,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.75	18.25	17.75	17.75	986,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.09	3,900,000
Ionics Inc.	1.9	1.98	1.88	1.94	3,110,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.78	1.76	1.78	1,558,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.014	0.018	0.014	0.018	11,800,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	520,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.37	0.34	0.35	21,380,000
Music Corp.	0.49	0.51	0.48	0.48	13,080,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1.02	1	1	400,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	810,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	15.75	17.25	15.75	17.25	239,800
Steniel Manufacturing	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	750,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	230,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.44	0.48	0.43	0.48	1,980,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	650,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.4	0.44	0.4	0.42	3,500,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.5	22.5	22.25	22.25	42,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.5	3,813,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.235	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	1,690,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	3,580,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.18	4,088,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.185	0.27	0.18	0.27	25,350,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	730,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	790,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	7,138,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	2,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	21,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	150,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	28,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0042	0.0038	0.0042	167,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	3,350,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	800,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	12,700,000
Interport Res.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0034	0.0036	34,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	195,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	33,000,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	4,600,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	130,000

CURRENCIES

July 21, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.886997	1.000000	53.667000
Japan	Yen	0.007493	0.008448	0.453400
United Kingdom	Pound	1.410147	1.589800	85.319800
Hongkong	Dollar	0.113732	0.128222	6.881300
Switzerland	Franc	0.651341	0.734322	39.408900
Canada	Dollar	0.630552	0.710884	38.151000
Singapore	Dollar	0.504262	0.568505	30.510000
Australia	Dollar	0.572219	0.645120	34.621700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.352838	2.652590	142.356500
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.236533	0.266667	14.311200
Brunei	Dollar	0.502832	0.566893	30.423400
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000120	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.021260	0.023969	1.286300
UAE	Dirham	0.241504	0.272272	14.612000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.127400	60.504200
Argentina	Peso	0.317351	0.357782	19.201100
Brazil	REAL	0.309706	0.349162	18.738500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134761	0.151930	8.153600
India	Rupee	0.019203	0.021650	1.161900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.233451	0.263193	14.124800
Mexico	New Peso	0.085622	0.096530	5.180500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.505930	0.570386	30.610900
Norway	Kroner	0.119667	0.134913	7.240400
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015391	0.017352	0.931200
South Africa	Rand	0.115344	0.130039	6.978800
Korea	Won	0.000750	0.000845	0.045300
Sweden	Kroner	0.107960	0.121714	6.532000
Syria	Pound	0.021119	0.023810	1.277800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025822	0.029112	1.562400
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000556	0.000627	0.033600

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Gov't asked not to make new WTO commitments

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE GOVERNMENT was urged not to make new trade commitments that would further bring down tariffs during the World Trade Organization's Fifth Ministerial Meeting in Cancun, Mexico in September.

In a press briefing yesterday, Walden Bello, executive director of civil society group Focus on the Global South, said the country's membership in the WTO had brought no benefit to the Filipinos. It, instead, caused unmitigated disaster on the economy, he added.

Bello, who is also member of the newly formed group against the WTO called Stop the New Round Coalition, claimed that the WTO was the most inequitable multilateral agreement the country had entered into.

"Before making any new commitments to the trade body, our government officials must first assess the impact of any move on various sectors, including agriculture and industry."

"Would the government dominated by neoclassical technocrats and weak bureaucrats so used to being intimidated by US and European officials find the spine to finally hold the line for the sake of national interest?"he asked.

A Philippine trade negotiator admitted in a speech before the WTO Committee on Agriculture last July 1 that, as a result of the country's adherence to the WTO agreement on Agriculture, the farm sectort had been "destabilized."

"Our development program initiatives are frustrated by the gross unfairness of the international trading environment. Even as I speak, our small producers are being slaughtered in our own markets," he told the committee. The coalition presented that "promises" attached to the country's membership in the WTO-General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1994 have not been met to this date. These "promises" included the creation of 500,000 agricultural jobs, increase in annual agricultural export earnings by P3.4 billion and additional P60 billion in annual gross value added in agriculture.

"By the end of the decade, the promised benefits did not materialize and the Philippine agriculture is even at the throes of crisis," Bello said.

Employment in agriculture even dropped from 11.29 million in 1994 to 10.85 million in 2001.

Agriculture exports were supposed to rise with the country's WTO membership, but the value of Philippine exports even went down from $2.3 billion in 1997 to $1.9 billion in 2000, Philippine Peasant Institute's Rissa Bernabe said in the same briefing.

Bernabe added there was even a significant rise in Philippine imports to $2.7 billion in 2000 from $1.6 billion in 1997.

He added that the WTO membership had not protected the Philippines from barriers and restrictions imposed by major markets such as the US, European Union and Australia.

In the meantime, the government is pushing for changes in the implementation of special safeguard measures (SSM) to level the playing field in agricultural trade among developing and developed countries. The changes are to be included in the draft proposal prepared by the WTO's agriculture committee chair Stuart Harbinson.

The Harbinson proposal is currently under debate in the formal special session of the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland.

In a statement, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Segfredo R. Serrano said the inclusion of provisions concerning special products (SPs) and disallowing developed countries to use SSM would ensure the competitiveness of developing countries.

Increased perks for industries sought

VICE President Teofisto Guingona has urged the government to provide local industries with more incentives to combat the continued "protectionist" stance of other governments.

Guingona made the call as economies prepare for the 5th ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization in September this year. It is during this time when commitments made by WTO member-countries to promote free trade and liberalization are assessed.

"We should pursue our own brand of economic nationalism for the 21st century as we are witnessing the developed countries preaching the gospel of globalization and free trade to the Third World while continuing to practice protectionism for their own highly subsidized industries," Guingona said in a statement.

The Vice President said that while other countries, mostly developed ones, have "nationalist" economies, the Philippines has failed to support its local industries in the same manner.

He criticized the fact that billions of dollars of subsidies are granted by the United States, the European Union and Japan to their farmers, thus allowing them to dump cheap produce into developing countries, like the Philippines.

The practice, he said, was even helped along by the reduction of import tariffs and rampant technical smuggling.

Since the government cannot grant the same huge amount of subsidies, Guingona said it should instead realign its tariff structures to rid the domestic industries of stiff competition from cheap imports.

"Our people buy food, t-shirts, shoes, slippers, pants, soap and toothpaste—products which we do not need to import at all," he said.

He said one way of developing local industries was the provision of more incentives to domestic investors and to prioritize domestic producers in all government procurement activities.

He also recommended that the government encourage banks to engage more aggressively in development banking instead of competing with commercial banks.

He pointed out that most developed countries also focused first on developing their domestic base, by maximizing their natural resources and human talents to meet the domestic demand, and export only their excess production.

Michelle V. Remo

Alliance of telecom companies formed

IN VIEW of the numerous issues besetting the telecommunications industry, 14 of the country's telecommunication companies have formed an alliance that will cooperate with the government in updating and improving local industry rules and regulations.

The Philippine Chamber of Telecommunication Operators PCTO) envisions a local information and communications technology (ICT) environment that is abreast with the latest developments in technology.

PCTO chair and president Epitacio Marquez, head of international gateway facility operator Capitol Wireless Inc., said in a statement yesterday that the new organization would be working together with the government in facing "the challenges of developing a national ICT infrastructure, harnessing the skills and talent of its people and conditioning the Filipino people to adapt to the fast-paced world of a borderless economy."

He added that PCTO would be coordinating closely with ICT agencies in formulating, implementing and updating of government policies and regulations on telecommunications.

The organization had likewise committed to establish and maintain connections with foreign organizations that represent the global telecommunications industry.

PCTO's founding members include Capwire, Globe, Bayan Telecommunications Inc., Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc., Eastern Telecommunications Phil. Inc., Express Telecommunication Co. Inc., Isla Communications Co. Inc., Philippine Association of Private Telephone Companies, Philippine Global Communications Inc., Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Co., Pilipino Telephone Corp., Smart Communications Inc. and Telecommunications Technologies Phil. Inc.

SBMA OKs restructuring of Crown Peak arrears

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) has agreed to restructure the arrears in power charges and rentals of Crown Peak Garden Resort and Hotel.

The decision came after Anthony Trillo, Crown Peak owner, met with SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo to discuss the settlement of the firm's accumulated arrears that led to the disconnection of the power supply to the company on July 10.

The power cut-off came after Executive Judge Ramon Caguioa of the regional trial court on July 8 lifted an injunction that prevented SBMA from collecting the arrears from Crown Peak.

In an undertaking signed on July 15, Trillo had agreed to submit a restructuring proposal to the SBMA.

The amount of arrears are still subject to reconciliation with the SBMA accounting department.

Trillo said Crown Peak and the SBMA representatives also agreed to treat all contested bills separately to allow Trillo "a breathing space."

Payumo described the settlement as "reasonable."

Trillo promised to pay on time all current bills. The SBMA restored power supply to Trillo's facilities on July 15.

The P12.8-million surety bond posted by Crown Peak will be forfeited in favor of SBMA while a P1-million injunction bond will be used to cover part of the firm's power bills.

Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Ford seeks tax incentives for CBU exports

By Michelle V. Remo

FORD Motor Co. Philippines has called on the government to be true to its word and implement the executive order that grants tax incentives to assemblers exporting completely built vehicles.

Ford, the sole exporter of completely built cars in the country, said the export incentives were crucial to the viability of the car export industry.

"We are not asking the government to do something which it did not promise to do. All we're asking is for them to do what they said they would," said Ford president Henry Co in a briefing.

EO No. 156, which mandates the granting of tax incentives for car exports, was issued in December 2002. However, officials of the Department of Finance have yet to meet with Ford executives to discuss the terms of the incentive package.

Co said the chance of a local car export industry to succeed would be very slim without the incentives. He said the reason the industry was finding difficulties in pursuing CBU (completely built unit) exports was the high cost of doing business here compared with its neighbors.

He added that to develop the car export industry, there has to be a strong domestic base that would support the cost of doing export. Co said about half of the existing car manufacturers in the country might move to other countries if the government would not do something to support the industry.

Ford is planning to jack up its vehicle exports in the next five years to 100,000 units a year from the current 10,000 units. It aims to help the country become the second biggest car exporter in the region next to Thailand. The attainment of this target, said Co, was hinged partly on the provision of export incentives.

"The government said it would grant the incentives. But more than six months have passed but nothing has happened," Co said.

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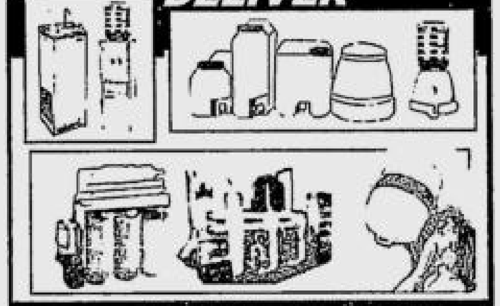

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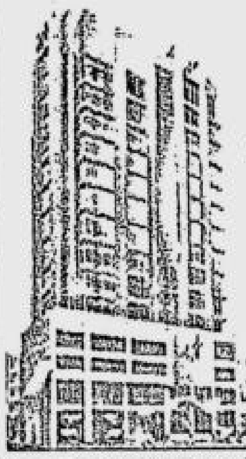

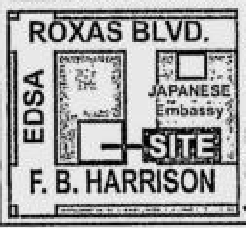

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5	CAMP JOHN HAY	230,000	200,000
6	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	150,000	130,000
7.	CELEBRITY SPORTS PLAZA	180,000	170,000
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9	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	420,000	350,000
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11	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
12	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,200,000
13	MANILA POLO CLUB	2,400,000	2,200,000
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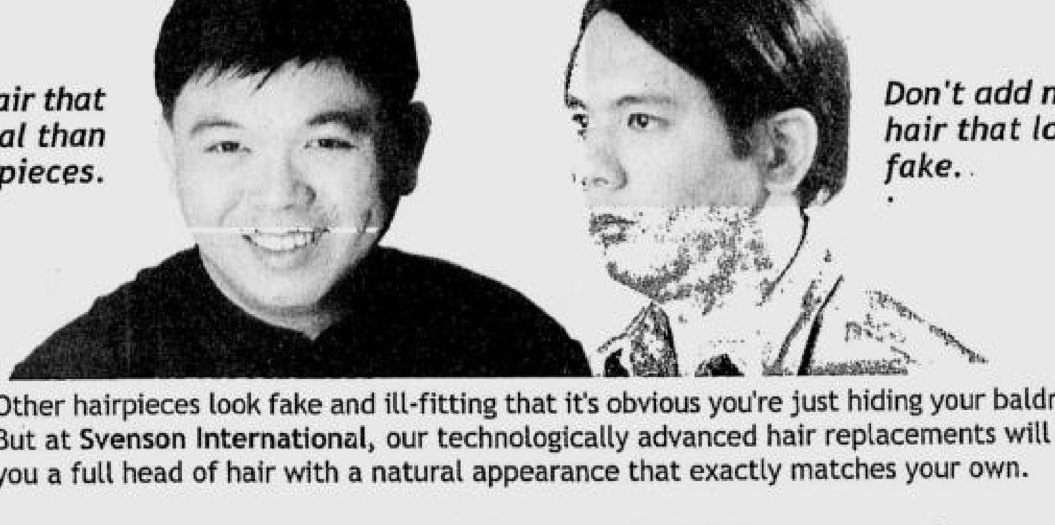
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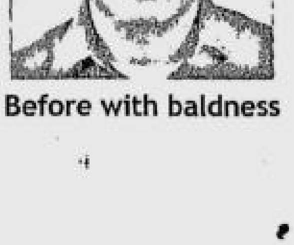

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves. shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle. Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region XII
Tacurong City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA), Region XII, Tacurong City invites parties/contractors duly registered with CIAP to register with NFA and to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the cotracts of:

PROJECTS/ CONTRACTS	APPROVED BUDGET	CIAP CATEGORY	CONTRACT DURATION
Re-roofing of GID warehouse No. 4 (duplex), Installations of Secondary Doors and Window Screens	P 3,124,539.38	Minimum CIAP category is medium sub-category A	8 weeks (56 calendar days)
Re-roofing of GID warehouse No. 2 (single), Installations of Secondary Doors and Window Screens	P 1,988,878.27	Minimum CIAP category is small sub-category B	6 weeks (42 calendar days)

Projects/Contracts location is at NFA Compound, M'lang, North Cotabato

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	DATE/TIME
Issuance of Registration Requirement Forms to Applicant Contractors	- July 23 up to July 30, 2003 (3:00 PM)
Deadline of Submission of Registration Requirements	- August 1, 2003 (3:00 PM)
Forms and Issuance of Registration Certificate Issuance of Eligibility Requirement Forms	- July 25 up to Aug. 4, 2003 (3:00 PM)
Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirement Forms	- August 6, 2003 (3:00 PM)
Deadline of Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	- August 6, 2003 (3:00 PM)
Pre-Bid Conference	- August 21, 2003 (9:00 AM)
Submission of Sealed Bid	- August 29, 2003 (8:30-9:00 AM)
Opening of Sealed Bid	- August 29, 2003 (9:10 AM)

Contractors may register with the Regional Bid and Awards Committee (RBAC) Secretariat upon submission of letter of intent and securing Application for Registration Form.

Eligibility requirement forms may be available to NFA Registered Contractors at the RBAC Secretariat upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Php 1,000.00. Also Bid/Tender documents, shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of nonrefundable fee of Php 3,000.00 per project/contract.

The VENUE of all activities stated above will be at the Farmers' Training Center, NFA-SPGC, Compound, Tacurong City.

The criteria in determining the eligibility of contractors is the pass/fail method as stated in the IRR of amended PD 1594 and Executive Order No. 40. The Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid Method will be used in the evaluation of bid.

The RBAC Secretariat can be contacted at Tel. Nos. (064) 200-3803 / 384-1247 and Fax No. (064) 200-3807, Contact persons are Ms. Ma. Cristina O. Pleña / Engr. Adoramor A. Aromin.

NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids thereof, waive any formalities found therein or to accept or reject any or to award to any contractor whose bids is considered most advantageous to the NFA and/or to the government.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. GARCIA, CESO V
Regional Manager

(PDI - July 22 & 30, 2003)

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RIP

RODOLFO ECO DULA

August 12, 1948 - July 21, 2003

Joined his Creator on July 21, 2003
at the age of 54.

His loving sisters, **Teresa** and **Rosario**, brother-in-law **Herman**; nieces **Golda**, **Michelle** and **Carla**; nephews **Victor**; **Dimpy** and **Enzo**; cousins, relatives and faithful friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the San Beda College Chapel, Mendiola, Manila with visiting hours from 6:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 26, 2003 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

HIS EMINENCE, JAIME L. CARDINAL SIN
Archbishop of Manila

The auxiliary bishops and clergy of the Archdiocese of Manila; bereaved brothers and sisters-in-law: **Bienvenido & Gregoria Jose; Arsenio & Remedios Jose**; sister **Abdulia L. Jose**; nieces & nephews; grandnieces and grandnephews; relatives and friends

deeply mourn the demise of

REV. MSGR. ISIDRO L. JOSE

who died on July 19, 2003 at the age of 86.

His remains lie in state at the Royal Chapel of the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City and will be transferred to the Saint Andrew's Cathedral, Quirino Avenue, La Huerta, Parañaque City today, July 22, 2003 at 1:00 p.m.

Funeral Mass will be held on July 23, 2003 at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the Saint Andrew Cathedral. Interment will follow at the Parañaque Catholic Cemetery.

The faithful are requested to pray for the repose of his soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." **John 14:2**

In Loving Memory

of the First Death Anniversary of

JULIETA MANIAUL-RAMOS

October 31, 1922 – July 22, 2002

Memorial service will be held at the Cosmopolitan Church, Taft Ave., Manila at 10:00 a.m. today, July 22, 2003.

We her family, relatives and friends unbearably miss her loving presence, but her unusual kindness and thoughtfulness will always dwell in our hearts now & forever more.

Card of Thanks

On 12 July 2003, our beloved

Bors

Went home to be in God's eternal bosom, there to live in peace and perfection.

His going home was a moment of grief for us, but it was easy to bear that grief for there were loved ones, friends, and colleagues who offered their time to assure us of the presence and love of God in our life.

To you we offer our deepest gratitude, from those who dearly loved the late

Atty. Manuel V. Escalante, Jr.

GERALDINE ANNE FACTOR OPLE

*Peacefully joined our Lord
on July 20, 2003 at the age of 49.*

Her bereaved husband **Luis V. Ople**; children **Barbara Anne** and **Jun-Jun**; parents **Reuben Ma. Factor, Sr.** and **Milagros Gomez Factor**; brothers and sisters **Sonny** (†) and wife **Yolly**, **Macbeth** and wife **Baby**, **Jeff** and wife **Minnie**, **Dennis** and wife **Nini**, **Bonny** and husband **Butch**, **Annabel** and husband **Rod**; nephews and nieces; parents-in-law **Secretary Blas F. Ople** and wife **Susana** and their children, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 26, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

OUR DEARLY BELOVED

DR. FERNANDO MAGTIBAY ESCANO

1910 - 2003
(Former Provincial Health Officer-Marinduque, Bataan & Batangas)

*Now peacefully rests in the Infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord
on the 21st of July 2003 at the age of 93.*

His loving wife **Anita Gonzales Escano**; children **Dr. Jesus & Aurora Limcangco**, **Francisco** (†), **Richard** (†), **Rollie & Evelyn Ferrera**, **Engr. Luis & Teresita Lirio**, **Danny & Daisy Escano & Gilda** (†); grandchildren **Noel & Liza**, **Jay & Eden**, **Ronnie & Cheryl**, **Lizelle**, **Darvin**, **Donna**, **Dyan**; brothers **Jose & Cresencia**, **Dr. Conrado & Buena**, **Domingo & Consolacion**; in-laws **Lydia Gonzales Capulong**, **Dr. Romulo Gonzales** and **Dr. Herminio & Dra. Erlinda G. Germar**; great grandchildren, relatives, colleagues & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Dao Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, inside Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

His remains will be transferred to Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion, Batangas City on Friday, July 25, 2003 at 7:00 a.m.

Interment will be at Batangas Catholic Cemetery on Saturday, July 26, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

We design **OBITUARIES** for free.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nos.: 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc. 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the 2-Stage bid process for the **Phase 2 Upgrade of One (1) BO-105C Helicopter**, of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of **Thirty Three Million and Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 33,600,000.00)** chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from entities authorized by the appropriate civil aviation authority, which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build, or otherwise produce the BO-105C helicopter, shall be entertained.

1st stage bid documents will be available for issuance starting **July 16, 2003** until **August 7, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Sixty Pesos (Php 3,360.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the 1st stage bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 7, 2003 at 09:00 a.m.** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than seven (7) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the BO-105C helicopter and the Naval Air Group facilities upon purchase of the bid documents until the deadline of submission of the 1st stage envelopes.

The deadline for submission of the 1st stage envelopes is on **August 26, 2003 at 09:00 a.m.** (local time) to be followed by the Opening of Bids at **10:00 a.m.** at the Silid Panday Pira. Only those bidders found to be eligible shall be allowed to participate in the 2nd stage bidding activities.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO G CAROLINA**
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - July 16 & 22, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nos.: 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc. 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the 2-Stage bid process for the **Upgrade of Three (3) Britten Norman Islander-2A Fixed Wing Aircraft** of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of **Seventy Two Million Pesos (Php 72,000,000.00)** chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from entities authorized by the appropriate civil aviation authority, which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build, or otherwise produce BN Islander, shall be entertained.

1st stage bid documents will only be available for issuance starting **July 16, 2003** until **August 5, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Seven Thousand and Two Hundred Pesos (Php 7,200.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. Pre-registration documents may only be submitted starting on the day of first publication until the day before the pre-bid conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the 1st stage bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 5, 2003 at 09:00 a.m.** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than seven (7) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the BN Islander Aircraft and Naval Air Group facilities upon purchase of the bid documents until the deadline of submission of the 1st stage envelopes.

Deadline for submission of the 1st stage envelopes is on **August 19, 2003 at 09:00 a.m.** (local time) to be followed by the Opening of Bids at **10:00 a.m.** at the Silid Panday Pira. Only those bidders found to be eligible shall be allowed to participate in the 2nd stage bidding activities.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO G CAROLINA**
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - July 16 & 22, 2003)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites all authorized manufacturers, distributors, dealers and suppliers to apply for eligibility and if found to be eligible, to bid for the supply, delivery and installation of any or all of the following IT hardware:

QTY	HARDWARE	APPROVED BUDGET in Philippine Pesos
268	Branded desktop computers	17,550,000
41	Branded notebook computers	4,510,000
40	Lightweight branded notebook computers	4,400,000
3	Rack mountable file servers	3,000,000
12	Network switches	1,587,000
45	Uninterruptible power supply	1,125,000
13	Portable laser printers	429,000
39	Dot matrix printers	1,287,000

The Application for Eligibility and Terms of Reference shall be made available to interested bidders starting July 21-25, 2003, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

All accomplished eligibility forms and supporting documents should be submitted to the above office on or before 3:00 PM of July 30, 2003.

Only those found eligible shall be invited to submit their financial bids. The pre-bid conference shall be held on August 7, 2003 at 2:00 PM at the PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. Submission and opening of bids shall be on August 21, 2003 at 2:00 PM at the same venue.

Criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification shall be on non-discretionary pass/fail basis.

The eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids and awarding of contract shall be governed by pertinent provisions of RA 9184.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality or minor defect, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(FOR GOODS, SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS)

(PDI--July 15 & 22, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE

2004

July 21, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Project I : Lease of Integrated Tax System Production Servers
Location of the Project : BIR-QCY, BIR-RR7 & BIR-MLA
Approved Budget : P20,339,000.00
Contract Duration : September 1, to December 31, 2003

Project II : Lease of Integrated Tax System Storage and Automated Tape Library
Location of the Project : BIR-QCY, BIR-RR7 & BIR-MLA
Approved Budget : P3,186,668.00
Contract Duration : September 1, to December 31, 2003

All interested parties may get the bidding documents from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City starting *July 23, 2003* upon payment of *non-refundable fee of:*

Project I : Four Thousand One Hundred Pesos (Php 4,100.00)
Project II : Seven Hundred Pesos (Php 700.00)

A pre-bid conference will be held on *August 5, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.* at the 3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.

Deadline for the submission and opening of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on *August 20, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.* at Procurement Division, Room 605, 6th Floor BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.

The criteria to be used by BIR-BAC in the following: (a) eligibility check of prospective bidders; (b) examination and evaluation of bids; and (c) postqualification is the *non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.*

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief, Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 926-5547/926-5538 and telefax no. 928-2026 or e-mail us at nelly.ibo@bir.gov.ph until *August 18, 2003.*

(Sgd.) **MILAGROS Y. REGALADO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - July 22, 2003)

INVITATION TO DEVELOP

Thru lease or joint venture
10-ha. Agricultural Land

- Located along national road 2 kms. from city proper, Kidapawan, North Cotabato
- Single owner/title
- 6 existing tenants

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OBITUARIES

"I am the resurrection & the Life: He who
believes in Me will live, even when he dies,
& no one who lives, & believes in Me will ever die."
John 11:25-26

VERONA ALBANO BADONG

(Widow of **Emilio C. Badong**)

of Bacarra, Ilocos Norte
& Vacaville, California

Peacefully joined her Creator
on July 17, 2003 at the age of 81.

Her children **Odilon & Inday, Mina & Alex, Emelyn (†), Roni & Raffy, Melita & Hector;** grandchildren, great grandchildren & relatives, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will arrive from California, USA, on Wednesday, July 23, 2003 and will lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 27, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

SOLEDAD NEPOMUCENO DE JESUS

Joined her Creator on July 21, 2003
at the age of 80.

Her bereaved husband **Liberato**; children **Cynthia** and **Rey, Raul** and **Jenny**; grandchildren **Carol, Jun-Jun, Reret, Mia** and **Gabriel** (†), and her sister **Puring** request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at the family residence at #24 Paterio Aquino Ave., Tonsuya, Malabon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 24, 2003 at San Bartolome Catholic Cemetery after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at the Parish Church.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

Sunrise for the national bank

1916 87 2003

Soaring high,
Making a difference
PNB

Text by Marlet D. Salazar
Photos by Jun Capulong

JUST a little over a year ago, it seemed like there was no way to stop the downfall of what was once the country's leading bank. Then came seasoned bankers led by Francisco Dizon and Lorenzo Tan, chairman and president, respectively. They took over in May 2002 and engineered a turnaround program for the Philippine National Bank (PNB) from huge losses to profitability in the shortest possible time.

> PNB is now fortifying its biggest strength: the overseas remittance business. As one of the pioneers in the remittance business, the bank is bent on becoming a truly global bank in the coming years.

True enough, as if with Midas' Touch, PNB is now back in the black. But the work doesn't stop, as the dynamic team recruited by PNB president Tan mounted innovative strategies set for the immediate rehabilitation of the bank.

Within five years PNB recorded a staggering loss of P33 billion. This year, however, PNB reported an income of P53 million for the first quarter.

Strong overseas remittance

PNB is now fortifying its strongest suit: the overseas remittance business. As one of the pioneers in the remittance business, the bank is bent on becoming a truly global bank in the coming years.

"We had to really scramble to keep that dominant position," said Jose Vicente Cuizon, OIC for overseas remittance business.

This year, instead of concentrating on volumes and items which has been a perennial target for the bank, it has shifted to profitability and efficient operations. The remittance business of the bank is 25 percent better than in previous years, according to Cuizon.

PNB's biggest advantage since the 1970s has been its enormous investment in brick and mortar offices. Its presence is felt in more than 80 locations worldwide. To keep the objective alive, PNB opened five new offices in the United States last year: Las Vegas Sahara, Maryland, Bergenfield in New Jersey, Peterson in Chicago, and Waipahu in Hawaii. A new office was opened in Eglinton, Canada, recently.

Earlier this year, PNB tied up with Citibank in Hong Kong to launch the merchant collection service through 7-Eleven stores. OFWs will be able to remit money for their loved ones through the 480 branches of the store 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and still enjoy the same security in remitting through banks.

PNB is looking at other countries for this venture. "The Indonesians have tapped PNB now to handle the remittances," said Cuizon, "So we are truly becoming a global remittance bank."

During the Middle East crisis this March, PNB set up call centers to assist affected OFWs stay in touch with their families here in the country. PNB Teleugnayan was supported by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa), Globe, and the Philippine Long Distance Co.

To claim its rightful place in the remittance business, the bank is setting up call centers to better service Filipinos both here and abroad. Today marks the launch of televideo conferencing that would enable OFWs to talk to their families here over a videophone. The more remittance transactions, the more points gained, which would allow televideo conferencing at no cost.

Asset management, sales on the move

Projects and strategies are intertwined as well to speed up the rehabilitation by way of expediting the disposition and streamline management of acquired assets.

Cuizon is working with Federico Cadiz, EVP for asset management and asset sales, to dispose of nonmoving real estate assets of the bank.

"We coordinate heavily in terms of the approach that we take," says Cadiz. The real estate financing is targeting Filipinos abroad who have the means to pay initial downpayment to acquire a land or a house, or houses and lots to be optimistic about the whole idea.

"We have the credibility and they have the liquidity," Cuizon observed.

To maximize the purchasing power of overseas Filipinos, PNB is coming up with an honorable program with tie-ups with residential property developers to lure more buyers.

"It's a large market and we're trying to foster a number of financial products, some of them are acquired assets," Cadiz said.

PNB is determined to keep the $3.2 billion that it .earned. "We don:t want it to get out because if it's withdrawn and deposited to another bank, we might as well keep it by giving our customers better products," Cadiz said. "It's national banking unlocking the profit selling initiative."

Based on the bank's performance last year, the retail assets contributed greatly to the profit PNB is enjoying, which is relative to the value of the assets as a premium.

"We will continue to exhaust that

SUNRISE/ B8

FRANCISCO Dizon, PNB chair and Lorenzo Tan, president

OUTSTANDING Employees

ANA NIEVES H. CABRERA
Credit Management Branch

ROSALINDA R. RAMOS
PGH Branch

MARY ANN F. TRINIDAD
Novaliches Branch

MARIE HOPE E. MALINNAG
Candon Branch

EGENALINE E. SALAZAR
Guimba Branch

RAUL E. GOLONG
Catbalogan Branch

EDWIN R. ABUHON
Agusan del Sur Branch

OUTSTANDING Tellers

ANNA LISA A. ARELLANO
Port Area Branch

ELAINE M. CORDOBA
PGH Branch

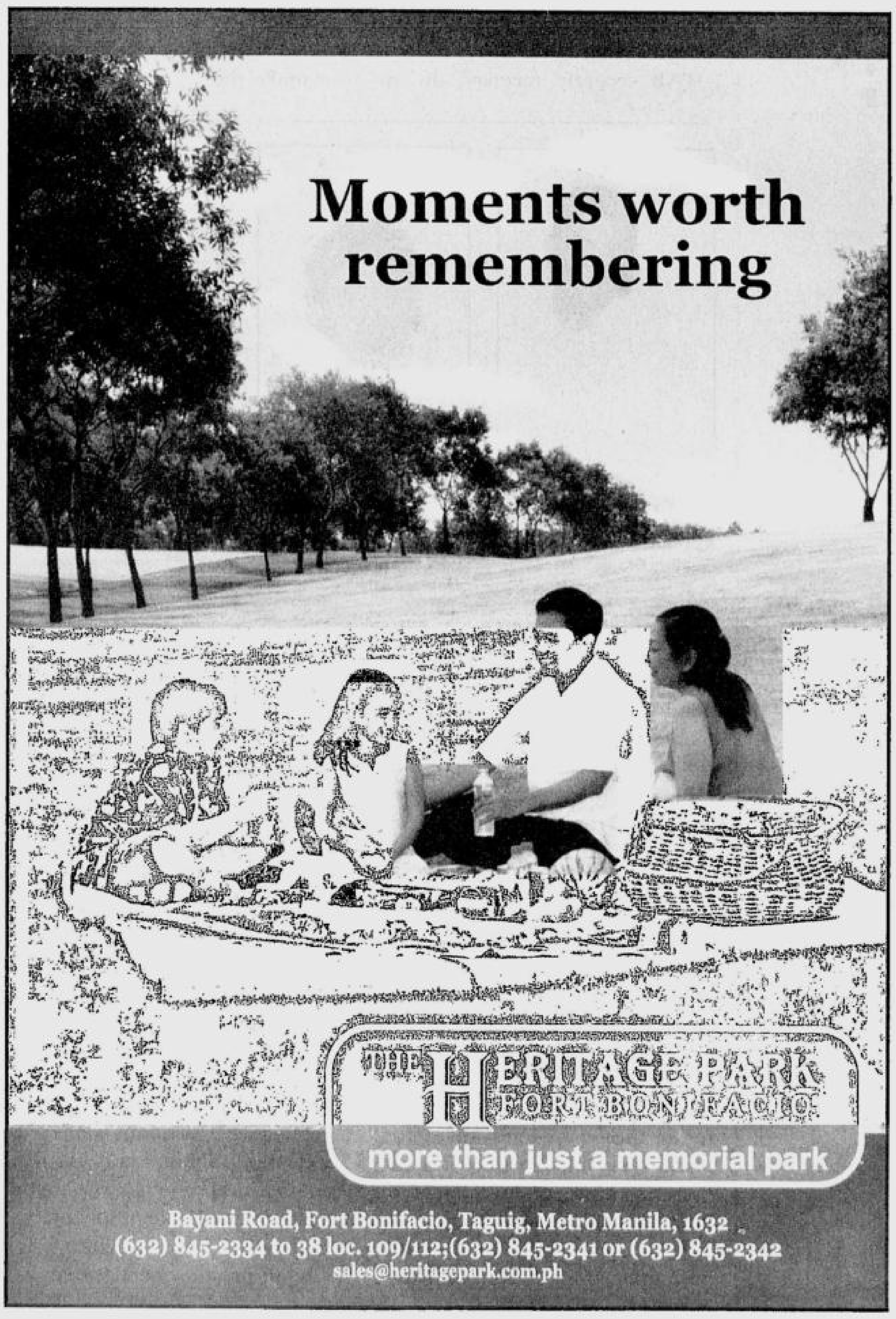
RACQUEL P. RABANG
Baguio Branch

MARISOL L. BARTOLOME
Guimba Branch

DAVIE L. ACABADO
Ligao Branch

JEROME S. PINERO
Bayanan Branch

MARGARITA B. TULANG
Valencia Branch



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for the national bank

From page B7

1916 87 2003

Soaring high,
Making a difference
PNB

PRIORITY

For the high-end market there is the Priority One checking account. If a depositor keeps a balance of at least P25,000, he or she is automatically enrolled in the Priority One checking account program. It comes with free accident insurance, dinner tickets, and travel points. For balance of P10,000 and above, gift certificates and gift coupons from Jollibee, Red Ribbon, and Dunkin Donuts abound.

portfolio with a lot more regeneration through tie-ups with the remittance business and the international market," Cadiz added.

As for the non-performing loans that is also under Cadiz's management, PNB has a different resolution strategy. The bank might sell some assets, while some of the loans would be cut. The rest would be sold to generate more income for PNB.

"We need to address all the assets to come up with the strategy, so that at the end of the day we will resolve a balance sheet issue for non-performing assets," Cadiz said.

Cadiz added they were able to liquify PNB's non-performing loans (NPL). "A lot of our assets were actually moving and actually performing," he added. Because of the retail nature of the bank's portfolio, there is a market to make money for the bank.

According to Omar Mier, EVP and chief credit officer, NPL is composed largely of non-performing assets (NPAs) amounting roughly to P45 billion.

"At the end of the year we are forecasting to be able to bring NPAs down to between P38 and 40 billion," Mier said, translating to a reduction of P5 billion to P8 billion.

PNB is doing all the implementation with its three-road approaches: foreclosure, full restructure, or outright sale. Mier is optimistic in seeing a drastic decrease of NPLs to a comfortable level of P20 billion to P25 billion in the next two or three years.

PNB recently received an approval for the Philippine Home Loans Program, again targeting overseas contract workers and Filipino residents of the United States.

"We are going to allow free selling," Mier said.

The good bank looks better

Michael de Jesus, first senior vice president for corporate banking, is building a portfolio, of which the other half has already been worked out. At present, the bank is able to build the infrastructure, hire more competent people, empower retained employees, and set new boundaries.

Good banking is simply the bank's strength and window of opportunity. Moves to maintain good banking is generating low-cost deposits, lowering interest expenses, and reducing high-cost time deposits.

"A major strategic move we want to make is to build up our treasury marketing unit," said Asterio Favis, EVP for the treasury group.

At the time Tan's team came in, the bank was not distributing treasury products aggressively.

"Perhaps, because in earlier times the focus was different," Favis said.

PNB hopes to provide its present and prospective clients as many alternatives as possible. Depositors who maintain large cash accounts are almost certain to receive incentives. This way, the bank would attract more clients.

The treasury income comes largely from proprietary trading, according to Favis. "If we have a good distribution base, then we can make the bank's treasury income a little more stable." But proprietary trading income has to depend a lot on the volatility of the market.

PNB Tele-ugnayan Rapid Remit sa Middle East for the OFWs and families in the face of US-Iraq war passes the rigor listing by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

NB
cit
MERCHANT CO
SE
PNB Remittance Service Plus tied up PNB and Citibank to provide non-stop convenience through 7-Eleven over 480 outlets in Hong Kong.

ASTERIO Favis, EVP Treasury Group

MICHAEL de Jesus, first senior vice president for corporate banking

FEDERICO Cadiz Jr., EVP for Asset Management and Asset Sales

OMAR Mier, EVP and Chief Credit Officer

JOSE Cuizon, Special Assistant to the President and OIC for Overseas Remittance Business

ISMAEL Sandig, EVP Retail Banking Sector

New retail products

Retail banking is moving aggressively with the introduction of new products and incentives revolving around the concept of value for money the customers pay. To ensure the presence of PNB in the Filipino psyche, the bank shifted to introducing new products with brand names to give them quick recall.

Mike Sandig, first SVP for the retail banking sector, is responsible for all these new innovative products. "We would like to ensure that there is return of investment for PNB," he said.

PNB recently launched another promotion for OFWs and their families here. This is in tie-up with various establishments in the country. The bank is also coming up with the Astra Secure Card (ASC) PNB Visa. It caters to OFWs who maintain time deposits with the bank.

For high-end markets there is the Priority One checking account. If a depositor keeps a balance of at least P25,000, he or she is automatically enrolled in the Priority One checking account program. It comes with free accident insurance, dinner tickets, and travel points. For a balance of P10,000 and above, gift certificates and gift coupons from Jollibee, Red Ribbon, and Dunkin Donuts would be given.

Another electronic product to be introduced is, Paywise, which is actually an enhancement for corporate customers who would like to avail themselves of convenience in their cash management. Other products in line are the First Access, for those who cannot afford to have a credit card and other discount cards. PNB is looking at tie-ups with 50,000 establishments in a period of five years, according to Sandig.

"We would like to position the bank not only based on volume but also to remove subsidies in trying to run the business," said Sandig, who was offered by Tan to join PNB a day after he retired from another bank.

The bank of choice

The dynamic and brainy team of PNB president Lorenzo Tan are all set to hurdle the challenges. Mier's analogy describing the team's strategy is the "four legs of a table". The first leg is the remittance business, the second is the combination of structured loans and good banking. The third is the real properties owned or acquired (RPOA). The fourth is the treasury.

"There is no room for error here," Cadiz said.

The public has reacted positively to all these moves by PNB, proof that the bank is slowly but surely gaining the confidence of the people. Cuizon attested to the vote of remittances by OFWs, which has improved enormously.

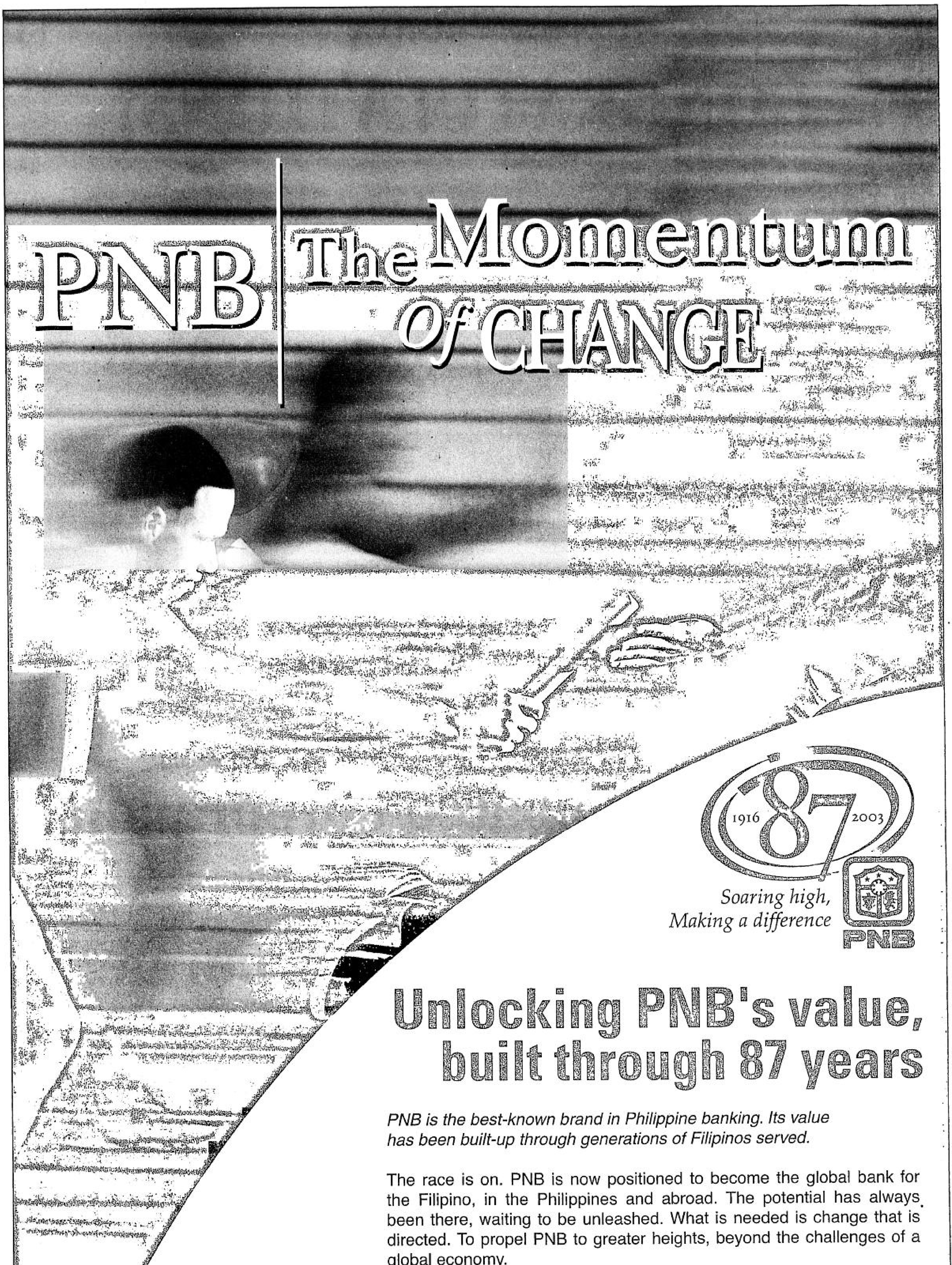
Ultimately, all of them agree on one thing: that the bank will regain its lost glory in no time when all the strategies and policies are fully implemented. Making PNB the bank of choice of every Filipino here and abroad.

CONGRATULATIONS!

From:

- **Asia Brewery Incorporated**
- **Basic Holdings Corporation**
- **Century Park Hotel**
- **Fortune Tobacco Corporation**
- **Foremost Farms Incorporated**
- **Grandspan Development Corporation**
- **Himmel Industries Incorporated**
- **Tanduay Distillers Incorporated**

PNB | The Momentum Of CHANGE



1916 87 2003

Soaring high,
Making a difference

PNB

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PNB is the best-known brand in Philippine banking. Its value has been built-up through generations of Filipinos served.

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Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Mass housing, other projects adopt new building technology

By Charles E. Buban

THE SEARCH for new but efficient and stronger means of building structures has led to a lot of companies experimenting in different ways to go around with concrete, still today's most important building block.

One of the latest innovations was patented by Italian company Emmedue Srl. and called its technology M2, which is now widely used in countries like Malaysia, Germany, Russia, Australia, Israel, Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, and now slowly establishing a niche in the Philippines.

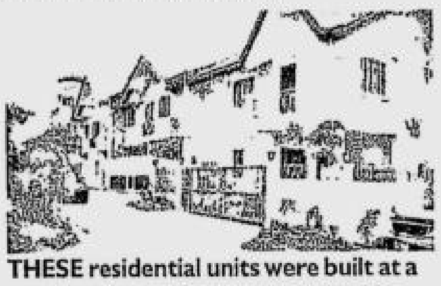
M2 is basically made of polystyrene (styrofoam) sandwiched by lightweight, prefabricated galvanized wire mesh.

Once the concrete is sprayed around the system, the finished structure forms a flexible and extremely versatile earthquake-resistant block which can be applied in single and multistructures.

Superior system

"M2 is superior to any previous construction system, be it traditional (hollow blocks, sand and cement) or prefabricated, of which it combines the most significant positive features," according to Robert Lee, president and general manager of Marathon Building Technologies, which is the exclusive distributor of M2 panels in the country.

M2 PANELS were used in the exterior and interior of this house.



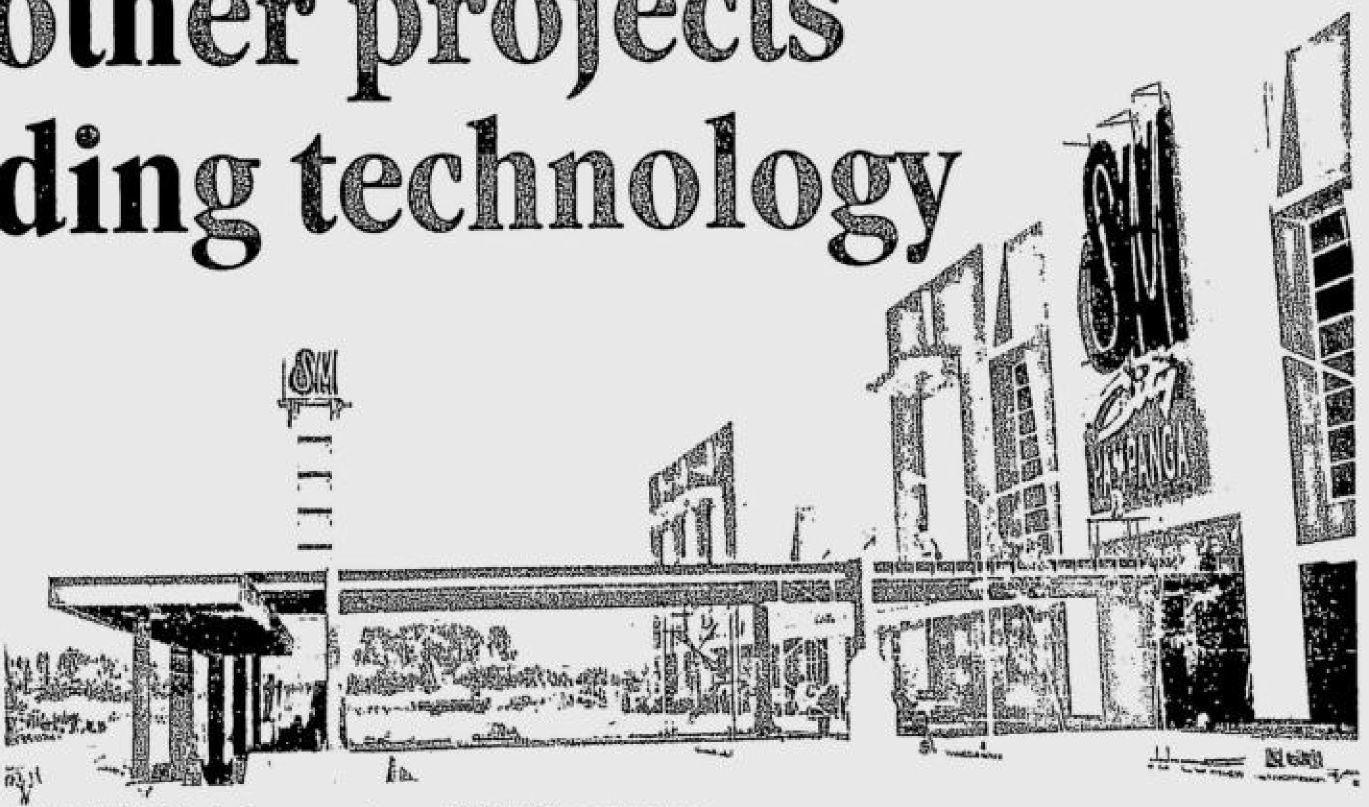
THESE residential units were built at a much easier and faster rate using the M2 technology.

Compared to traditional building materials, Lee said M2 is three times stronger and can be rapidly installed.

It's also resistant to weight-related stress as it can be used for buildings up to 20 stories high as well as architecture with intricate designs.

The structure is also an energy saver since it keeps temperature inside constant, apart from being also highly resistant to fire, rust, termites, mold and mildew.

"The potentials of these panels in the local building industry is promising," said Lee. "We see more and more companies switching to M2 technology."



THE NEW SM City in Pampanga also used M2 building technology.

Wide acceptance

M2 has already gained wide acceptance as standard for mass housing and other building developments in the Philippines.

To date, companies that have used M2 technology include Empire East and its parent company Megaworld, Cityland Development, G&P Building Technologies (builders of Aliw Theater), Techno Asia and Jollibee Foods Corp., which is building a huge commissary building at the Carmelray Industrial Park in Canlubang, Laguna.

"M2 can actually cut down construction and labor costs by as much as 25 percent, and reduces construction time by as much as 50 percent," said Lee. "This is one good reason a number of construction companies have switched to M2."

Four types

Marathon has four types of M2 panels available. These are single panels, which are used for load-bearing walls of two- or three-story buildings, and also as partitions, insulating walls; double panels, ready-to-cast concrete applicable type for much higher buildings; and floor panels and stairs panels, both of which are also ready for installation.

"Given its distinct advantage, M2 technology can easily contribute to the local construction boom," claimed Lee.

His claim is also boosted by the fact that demand for prefab has been estimated to grow by 10 percent annually.

The sector that will benefit most include mass housing and large-scale infrastructure development projects in the public and private sector.

"Prefab is going to be the wave of the future," shared Lee, "and we're definitely happy to help make that possible here in the Philippines."

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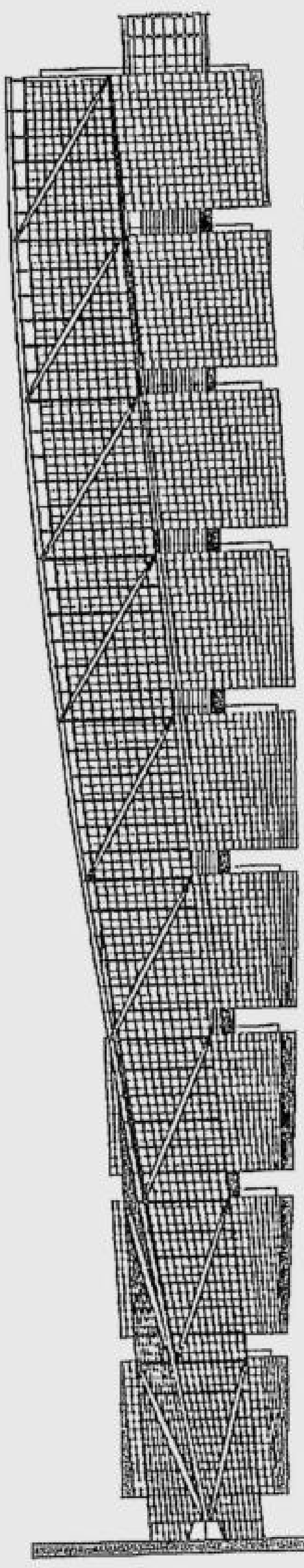
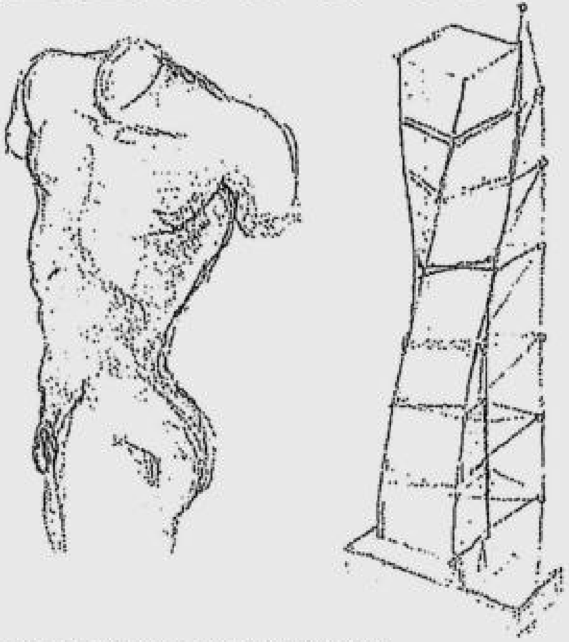
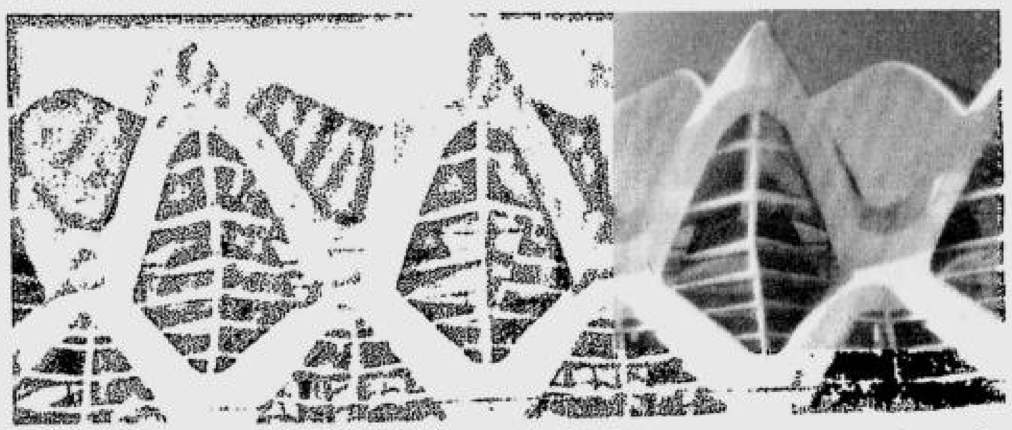
When architectural designs commune with nature





CALATRAVA'S turning torso is 186m tall, 45 floors and 90 degrees to the base.

WORLD ARCHITECTURE NO. 94, MARCH 2001



THE MILWAUKEE Art Museum is Calatrava's pavilion featuring a kinetic structure: its steel brise soleil can open or close like a great bird spreading its wings. ARCHITECTURAL RECORD, JULY 2000

By Tessa R. Salazar

Biotecture advocates the incorporation of living plants and animals into architecture

ORGANIC architecture, Art Noveau, Biotecture (or biological architecture). These terminologies, along with the visuals that illustrate these, are appreciated even by nonarchitects.

Filipino architect and academe Geronimo V. Manahan, Ph.D.,—a proponent of biotecture in the '70s—showed this writer eye-popping visuals of structural designs.

Manahan cited organic architecture, an important period in architecture where practitioners observe the harmonic relationships between the whole and the parts.

He stressed that these are tied to the process of life and birth, growth, senility and death.

Source of inspiration

American sculptor Horatio Greenough, during the mid-18th century, turned to nature as a source of inspiration for his work, for him it offered the most diverse forms without reference to preexisting models. He further said that form and function was a God-given principle.

Another artistic movement, called Art Nouveau, is described by Manahan as "a highly romantic reaction to eclecticism and academic classicism during the late 19th century." It began with Belgian architect Victor Horta in 1892. Manahan cited the Paris Metro Stations by Guimard as examples of this style.

Aside from ornamentation, Manahan said Horta also popularized the whiplash line or Horta line based on a close study of plants and flowers.

Another leading figure of Art Noveau is Catalan Antonio Gaudi, who died in 1926 in Barcelona.

The Church of Sagrada Familia in Barcelona occupied most of Gaudi's life beginning in 1883, which remains unfinished until today. Gaudi's moldings and decorative details for this church are drawn more closely from nature.

Said Manahan: "Gaudi asserted that the straight line belongs to man, the curved line to God. He was a genius of the Art Noveau. He is to be canonized by the Catholic faith."

Self-cleaning ceramics

One interesting highlight of Manahan's recollection of the 20th century biotecture is the self-cleaning ceramic. He cited Agrob Buchtal, the German ceramic company that had developed in 2000 a self-cleaning ceramic for building façades.

He described that these are the properties offered by the large-size KerAion Hydrotest ceramic panel.

"By applying a patented titanium dioxide coating on the ceramic surface, rain and sunshine initialize the process that removes dust and residues. Without any additional materials, bacteria and organic dust are decomposed and dispersed in a very simple and natural manner."

Biotecture, meanwhile, advocates the incorporation of living plants and animals into architecture. This involves designing buildings that would react like living things to changing environmental conditions.

One of biotecture's objectives is to produce human habitats compatible with the habitats of other life forms.

Biotecture's progeny are sun (light and heat), wind (aerodynamics), water (hydrodynamics) and earth (gravity).

Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava's works, featured in this section last week, conjure certain images in his structures like rib cages, vertebrae, branching trees as well as kinetic forms as the human eye, twisting human torsos, galloping horses, birds's wings and spinning spider webs.

Biotecture began when there came about congruence in the disciplines of basic sciences just after World War II. Most architects were looking toward unifiying theories.

Manahan cited, among others, the architects of the developing world who had concluded that the solutions for the problems of habitat may be by going back to nature.

"And the East had a lot of answers to give. The energy crunch of the 1970s hastened the need for biotecture studies in the developing countries," he said.

In the Philippine front, Manahan recounted Honorato G. Paloma of the University of the Philippines (the father of urban design of the Philippines) pushing for design with nature in the tropics. Paloma, he said, founded Urban Designers Associates Inc. with young architects who had the same design ideology, pushing for ecological planning.

Continuing the Paloma legacy are Froilan L. Hong and Manahan himself, who had a quest for biotecture during the 1970s at UP.

This resulted in groundbreaking work in tropical architecture, energy conservation, passive cooling, building materials research and housing for the urban poor.

The second generation architects of UP, he said, are now pushing further the frontiers of biotecture.

A GRIMSHAW and Partners' Eden Project is translucent domes likened to a dragonfly's eyepieces with several lenses.

WORLD ARCHITECTURE NO. 92, JANUARY 2001

Spanish-inspired homes at Vista de Lago Villas

By Charles E. Buban

A NEW urban community rises in Taguig Global City highlighting Spanish-designed homes, clubhouse and entrance gate.

Vista de Lago Villas, the latest urban community development from DMCI Homes, boasts a total of 390 units, each ranging from 48 to 114 square meters.

"The whole development is patterned after stately Spanish villas that surely fit the taste and demand of the Filipino family," said Jorge Consunji, president of DMConsunji Inc., the parent company of DMCI Homes.

Each of Vista de Lago's seven well-planned five-story walkup condominium buildings only has six to eight units per wing in each floor to ensure the best possible privacy, natural lighting and ventilation.

Unquestionable advantage

Vista de Lago Villas has unquestionable advantage over other residential developments, having both the elegance and convenience one considers in acquiring a property.

It is strategically situated near universities and schools, churches and shopping complexes, and is easily accessible to one's workplace.

The place is only a few minutes drive from the Makati central business district and using the C5 road, the Ortigas central business district.

VISTA de Lago Villas is complemented by its 23-meter-long pool and a multipurpose clubhouse

"On top of these, Taguig Global City is considered the next boom capital with the many shopping malls and universities lined up for development, one of which is 'Market Market,'" said Consunji.

Exclusive community

Vista de Lago Villas guarantees privacy and round-the-clock security for its residents with amenities exclusive only to them.

Its multipurpose clubhouse is equipped with a music lounge and a game room.

Alongside the clubhouse is a 23-meter-long swimming pool.

Other recreational facilities are a basketball and tennis court, very ideal for families and friends to spend the day together, informed Consunji.

"Vista de Lago is your sanctuary, a place where you will be provided with a breathing space to unwind and loosen up," promised Consunji.

HardiFlex maker forges alliance with developers

JAMES Hardie Phils. Inc. has allied with the country's major real estate owners and housing developers to perk up the construction industry amid a lingering slowdown. It manufactures HardiFlex, HardiFlex Lite and HardiPlank lines of fiber cement boards.

"JHPI is committed to supporting developers in growing their businesses, especially during this critical period," said national sales manager Jett Bije. "That is why we came up with the business development agreement, which assures our partners of a reliable supply of James Hardie's top of the line FCBs."

Extensive research and development efforts have enabled JHPI to produce building materials made of wood fiber and cement that are durable, safe, versatile and cost-effective. HardiFlex, James Hardie's flagship product, has been cited as the country's best building board brand by various customer organizations in the country.

Partnerships

James Hardie, which has been operating in the Philippines since 1996, has already forged partnerships with more than 30 leading Filipino developers. Collectively, they account for more than 20,000 housing units, shopping malls, hotels and residential towers nationwide.

The Hardie-developed BDA binds developers or contractors, on one hand, to use HardiFlex fiber cement boards for their projects, while James Hardie, on the other hand, will provide its developer partners with customized technical, marketing and corporate support for the duration of the contract, which could last for two years at most.

Product loyalty

The BDA is Hardie's way of recognizing the product loyalty of its long-time partners, Bije pointed out. "Developers, who haven't used our products before, will find that BDA will help boost the quality of their current and upcoming projects," he added.

James Hardie's partner developers have been for innovation in their products, services and building solutions, ever driven by their desire to exceed their customers' expectations, Bije stressed.

As they continue their innovation initiatives, James Hardie is providing marketing support, training them on the innovative and cost-efficient ways of using HardiFlex, and actively participating in their corporate development programs. "This is a win-win arrangement for both parties," Bije said.

NREA-PIEP to launch first national convention

THE NATIONAL Real Estate Association and the Philippines Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP) will launch their three-month conference and celebration on July 31, their grand membership assembly.

Titled "Global Trends: Urban and Regional Development in the 21st Century," the joint NREA-PIEP three-month celebration will culminate with its first national convention on Sept. 25-27 at the PICC.

The convention will serve as a forum for national issues on the creation of model communities; future development needs; including requirement for development guidelines and financing; where the roles and partnership among the trade professionals, decision-makers, and of the general public are of critical importance.

This will also foster understanding and cooperation among the different professionals—architects, planners, property developers, engineers and builders—as well as among government agencies and their local units, nongovernment organizations and the concerned civil society.

NREA executive vice president Nestor Mangio is the overall conference chair and PIEP's Delia Josef is the overall conference co-chair. Mike Defensor is the honorary conference chair.

NREA chair Jose "Ka Pepe" Manalad and president Felino A. Palafox Jr. together with PIEP president Francis Dagnalan are the conference advisers.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is the keynote speaker in the convention.

Buying your second home

BUILDING DREAMS

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

SELLING your present home and buying a new one to upgrade can be more complicated than buying your first home. Current homeowners, after using their first home for many years, eventually end up selling their home in order to upgrade. The reasons for selling one's home can be many but the most common one is that the current home can no longer meet the needs and lifestyle of the family.

Irregardless of whether you are upgrading into a larger home or moving into a smaller home, the process can be difficult because you have to handle two properties at the same time—the old home that you would want to sell and the new home that you would want to buy. A selling and buying plan is required so you can have the benefits of the double transaction, which is being able to sell high, and then being able to buy low—just like in the stock market.

Selling, buying strategies

There are two general strategies—either buy first or sell first and each of these options offers advantages and disadvantages. It starts with an honest assessment whether you have the finances to handle two real estate properties at one time. The important thing is for you to be able to decide a strategy in which you will be comfortable with.

- **Buy First then Sell Later**—Buying a new home first and then selling the old home later seems a logical choice but it would put a lot of strain on your pocket. At a certain point in the transaction, you will own two properties at one time. You will have to buy the new home at a price without knowing exactly how much you will be able to sell the old one. And if you cannot sell the old one at the price that you expected, then you may end up being short of money.

If the time between buying and selling is more than a year, then the changing economic conditions might affect real estate prices. Imagine if you have bought your second home in March 1997 when the real estate prices were at their highest, then you would have paid a premium price for the property. And then after buying and moving in to your new home, you decided to sell the old home in March 1998 when the real estate prices were down due to the Asian financial crisis, then surely you would have encountered problems in this kind of situation. A sudden change in the economic cycle can put you into a lot of trouble.

If you consider buying on installment sale and then using the proceeds of the sale of your old home, what happens now if you could not sell your old home at the time you need to and at the price that you want? Your down payment in the new home might be forfeited due to your failure in meeting your obligations. I have seen many real estate transactions that did not push through mainly because the payments in the sale of the old home were not received on time. If ever you would be in this situation, make sure that you have a long grace period in the installment payments of your new home. If you would need these concessions in your new home purchase, it is very likely that you will have to pay a higher price since the seller will have to wait longer until they receive their full payment.

- **Sell First and then Buy Later**—Financially, this would be easier because you will have the money in your hands before you buy your second home. The financial risk is practically eliminated in this situation. After you have the money in your hands, then you will be able to assess how much property you can really afford.

The many problems of selling first and then buying later are in the transition period. After selling your old home and then starting to look for a new one, you would have to rent a property for as short as three months or a little longer if you will have to construct your new home. You may ask the buyer of your old home until you can look for a place to transfer to but most buyers will only give you 30 days to vacate the property.

If you will have to rent, most landlords do not allow you to stay for a short period and you might end up staying in a hotel where the long-term rates can accumulate to a large amount. Also, if you have children going to school, their studies might be affected partially because of the moving that is involved since you would have to move twice—the first one to the interim rental property and the second one would be to the new home.

- **Not Selling the Old, Just Buying the New**—If you plan your real' estate investments well, you may not even have to sell your old home so you can be able to buy the upgrade home that you need. This is the position wherein the wise real estate investor would want to be in. You can even convert your old home into a rental property and use the rent to pay for the monthly amortization of the loan that you will take out on your new home. Or you may simply reserve the old home for your children. This is how you will start your position as a wise real estate investor.

Final Note. Buying your second home can be more complicated than being a first-time homebuyer. If you plan to sell your old home to finance the new one, you only have two ways to do it. It is either you buy first or you sell first. Each of these strategies has several advantages as well as disadvantages. It is best that you be honest with yourself on your real needs, wants and most especially, what you can really afford.

(For comments and advice you may reach Alexis Acacio at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph or call 952-0684.)

Security concerns spawn new trend in building design

A NEW trend in building design is taking shape out of people's concern for their own security.

Other than accessibility and safety, people are now seriously considering security as a major factor in their choice of residential or office units. This trend may reflect the pervading sentiment of the times.

As in the past, accessibility became a primary consideration when the traffic problem was at its worst, and so was safety when fire and other accidents occurred at disastrous proportions.

Thus, the traffic problem has greatly contributed to the proliferation of urban townhouses and residential condominiums, while concerns about fire have brought about strict laws on the provision of emergency exits in all buildings.

And now that the issues on accessibility and safety, including nature-related comforts, have been addressed by the construction industry through the appropriate location and building design, the emerging concern today is security due to the perceived rise in criminality worldwide.

This concern is becoming more pronounced, both in the business and residential communities, as many cases of thefts have been reported as "inside jobs" or perpetrated with the help of an employee or a household hand.

As such, more and more people are getting uncomfortable about entrusting their lives and property solely in the hands of security guards. The situation has made developers look for project locations with the least crime rates, and integrate security measures into the building design.

Among such measures is the use of locking devices that utilize high-security cylinders that cannot be picked or easily destroyed. It is equipped with sophisticated keys that cannot be duplicated without authorization. Modern-day security features provide this basic function, while even enhancing the esthetic quality of the building's interiors such as doors and cabinets for storage of valuables.

Called Mul-T-Lock, this high-security system is a product of the world-famous Israeli security technology, according to Edwin Lim, president of local distributor Felport International Marketing.

"Mul-T-Lock's combined telescopic pin and dimple system and its variable Profile and Interactive keys have effectively put a stop to all forms of unauthorized key duplication either by machine or by improvisation," Lim said. "It has also effectively controlled internal and external thefts without having to spend too much on a security surveillance system."

Moreover, Mul-T-Lock's Total System Integration (TSI) feature allows the use of a single key for practically everything—from padlocks, doorknobs and rimlocks to cabinet locks, doors, safes and many more, without compromise.

"This unique mechanical access control system provides a level of control never possible with any lock. With millions of combinations available, a sophisticated system can be made in accordance with the user's requirements. This allows the user to track the number of keys issued in the system. No longer is the user powerless to control his security," Lim explained.

Mul-T-Lock products are supplied with a special key card that identifies ownership. Similar to ATM cards, these identification cards also carry the information where the Mul-T-Lock can be serviced if the keys are lost. Authorized key centers will require the presentation of these cards before the keys can be duplicated. Restrictive key duplication procedures are strictly followed worldwide to prevent the unauthorized duplication of keys.

"Thus, Mul-T-Lock has become the ultimate key to control one's security," Lim added, citing its emerging integration into the design of buildings, not only in Israel, but also in the rest of the world.

Lecture on real estate investing set Aug. 2

FOR THE KNOWLEDGEABLE, real estate investing is one of the investment areas that yields many opportunities and long financial security. However, because of the broad, diverse and changing intricacies and techniques of real estate, many unknowledgeable ones suffer business failure instead.

The seminar on "Investing in Real Estate" will be repeated by the Urban Institute of Real Estate on Aug. 2, from 1:30 to 6 p.m., at the Asian Institute of Management, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

The four-hour lecture will cover the different opportunities and techniques in real investments which include the pros and cons of investing in vacant land; buy and sell or lease; build and sell; rehabilitation of foreclosed and damaged properties; master leasing; leasing with option to buy; converting apartments to townhouses; and developing small vacant lands and a general orientation that will guide the participants to all the basic knowledge that should be learned and essential to a profitable and successful real estate investment such as real estate economics, legal and contract documents, financing and analyzing investments, property appraisal, property development, development rules and regulations, property management, real estate taxation, and property valuation or appraisal.

For particulars, interested parties may call the Urban Institute at 681-0928 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

First Binangonan. . .

From page C4

tain exceptions so as not to dispossess homeowners, business establishments and the municipalities.

One of the exceptions in the compromise agreement includes landowners who, in the meantime, have already acquired the title to the property. Those who have acquired titles would have a superior right over the title of Guido.

The second exception includes those individuals who have already been in possession of the land in the concept of an owner subject to appropriate proceedings.

The second exception, according to Rivera, became a problem because of its vagueness. The people belonging to the second exception had to prove that they were in possession of the property in a concept of an owner and had to prove such in appropriate proceedings. The "appropriate proceedings," however, were not indicated in the agreement.

Bona fide occupants

As what is common in provinces, many parts of Binangonan are not covered by land titles. Rivera said people lived and died satisfied with just having a tax declaration as evidence of their ownership of their lots. Thus, it is difficult to ascertain who these "bona fide" occupants are. Who could determine whether they were bona fide owners?

"What is the appropriate proceeding referred to here? For how long may these occupants present their claim as being bona fide and their possession to have ripened into ownership?" Rivera asked.

Rivera revealed the Land Registration Commission—the predecessor of the LRA—and subsequently the LRA, despite a final and executory decision of a land registration court confirming the ownership of an affected landowner from Binangonan, never issued any decree where then land involved or a portion thereof is within the Guido titles.

As a result of this confusion, Rivera said violent confrontations between the heirs of Guido and their assignees and the affected occupants have ensued.

"Courts were crowded with cases involving recovery of possessions. Business opportunities hardly visited the town as investors avoided Binangonan mainly because land ownership in the town was highly categorized as being doubtful," he added.

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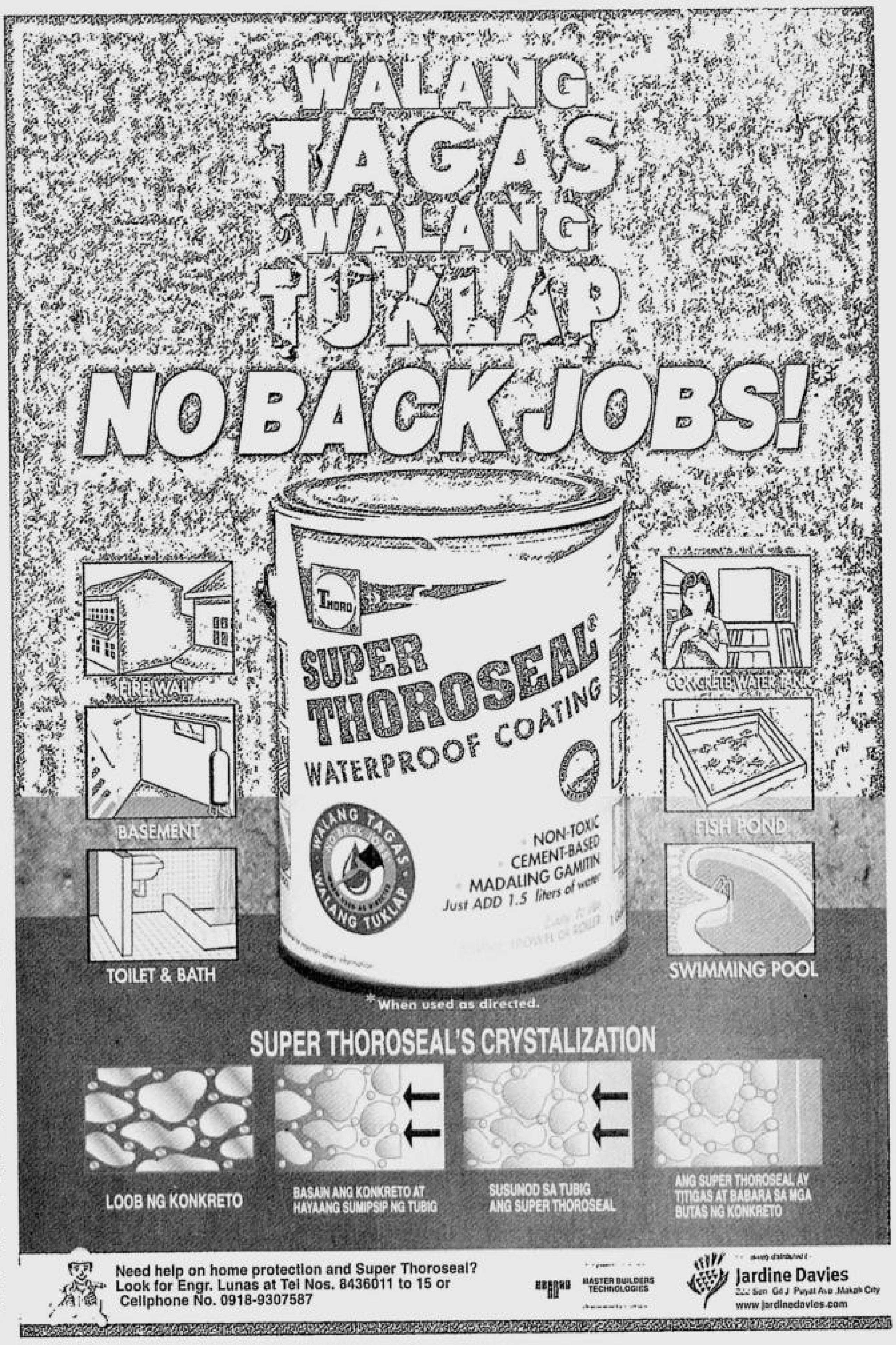

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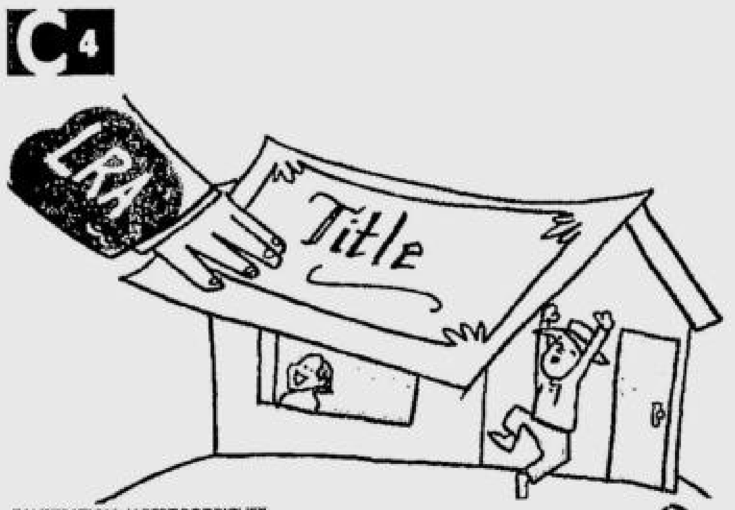

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

First Binangonan title sparks hope for 23,656 families

By Tessa R. Salazar

How does it feel living on a property you know would be claimed by someone else?

Ask the 23,656 families—composed mostly of farmers and fisherfolk—who 12 years ago discovered that the land on which their ancestral homes stood had suddenly became the property of the heirs of Antonina Guido.

The affected households, which cumulatively would comprise almost half of the town of Binangonan, Rizal, woke up one morning in 1991 facing a Supreme Court decision recognizing 21 separate titles issued to the Guidos as valid.

The titles of the Guidos covered 3,181.74 hectares of land—encompassing half of the land area of Binangonan, or 14 barangays of the town.

Apart from the 23,656 families, also affected were the municipal building and the entire municipal complex, the Binangonan Elementary School, the Rizal Cement Factory, an Iglesia ni Cristo church and other industrial complexes. Even a golf course, and subdivisions like Grandspan, Eastridge Golf and Country Club, Village East and San Carlos Heights suddenly became the pieces of property of the heirs of Guido.

As the property was being fenced and the Guido heirs deployed guards, the displaced residents fought back. Amid the violence, some families filed a petition for registration for the courts to confirm their own receipt of land title.

These occupants were successful in getting the favorable decision in the courts.

But when they approached the Land Registration Authority—the government agency that issued the decrees and the land titles—they were refused. The LRA said it could not issue titles to the occupants since the property in question already had existing titles. Approving of the occupants' titles would only create confusion and destroy the integrity of the titles.

Thus, the displaced occupants lived a life of uncertainty.

'Great leap'

Recently, however, the tide had turned. LRA Administrator Benedicto Ulep has just signed a land registration decree pursuant to a final and executory decision in a land registration case in Binangonan where part of the property involved is covered by one of the 21 titles belonging to the heirs of Guido.

This decree in favor of an occupant was considered a "great leap" toward a partial solution to this land mess.

With the help of the volunteers of the Lawyers League of Binangonan, an agreement was reached after talking with the Office of the Solicitor General and the LRA.

The agreement reached was: If the Regional Trial Court comes out with a decision confirming a title of a landowner whose property is either within or a portion is part of the Guido property, the decision would be annotated to the affected title of the Guidos.

"For instance, the title to be issued to an occupant that happens to fall under a Guido land is 500 sq. m., this would be annotated at the back of the Guido land titles as restrictions or limitations of the property. If a particular area covered is 500 sq. m. then the annotation in the Guido land title would be 'less 500 sq. m.,'" said lawyer Ricardo JM Rivera of the Lawyers League of Binangonan.

He added that, in effect, this would mean reducing the area covered by the Guido title.

The annotation, he said, was aimed at avoiding confusion among the Guido heirs and the occupants.

Landmark decree

Rivera said this was a landmark decree because after 12 years, a decree or title had finally been issued to an affected Binangonan occupant.

Rivera added that progress could now go on in the affected areas. For the same period, no establishments had been put up because of the confusion. Even the value of the lots had not appreciated.

Compromise agreement

Rivera said this case started in the 1970s involving a petition for "reconstitution" of land titles. The government, however, lost the case, and was later forced to enter into a compromise agreement during the time of Solicitor General Frank Chavez.

The compromise agreement in this case would recognize the titles of Guido as emanating from a valid decree covering more than 3,181.74 hectares, but would have cer-

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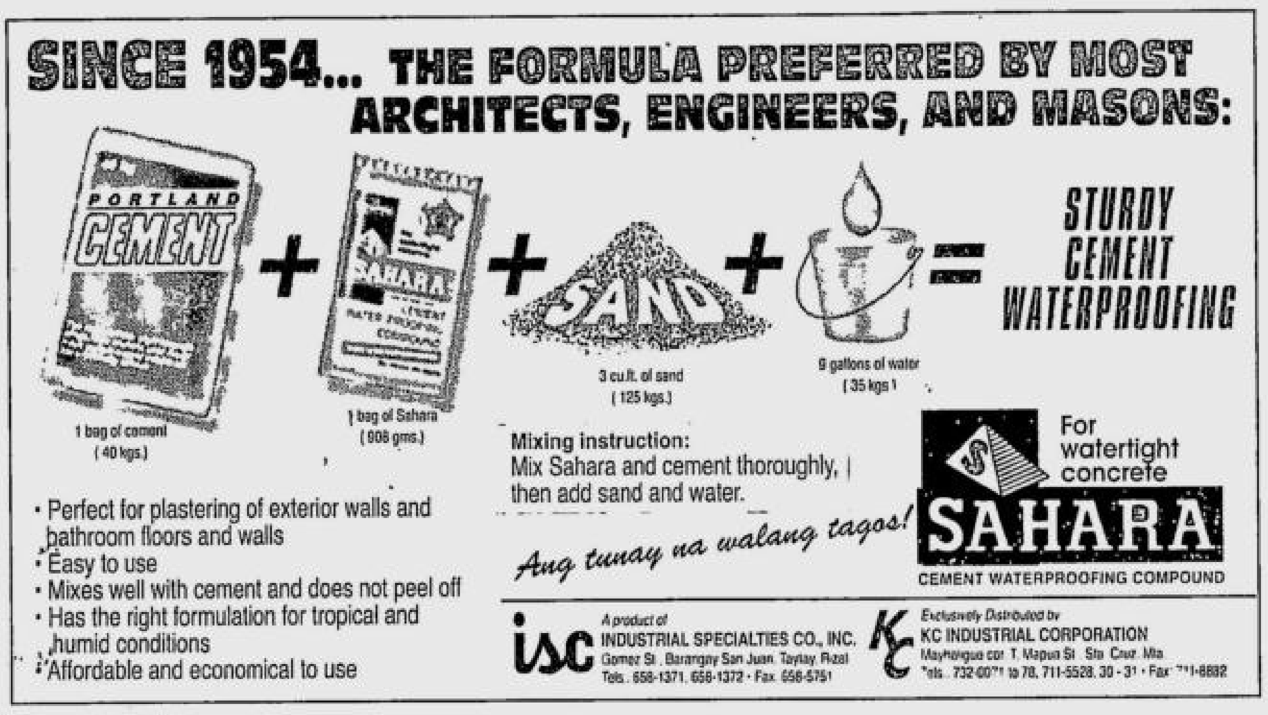
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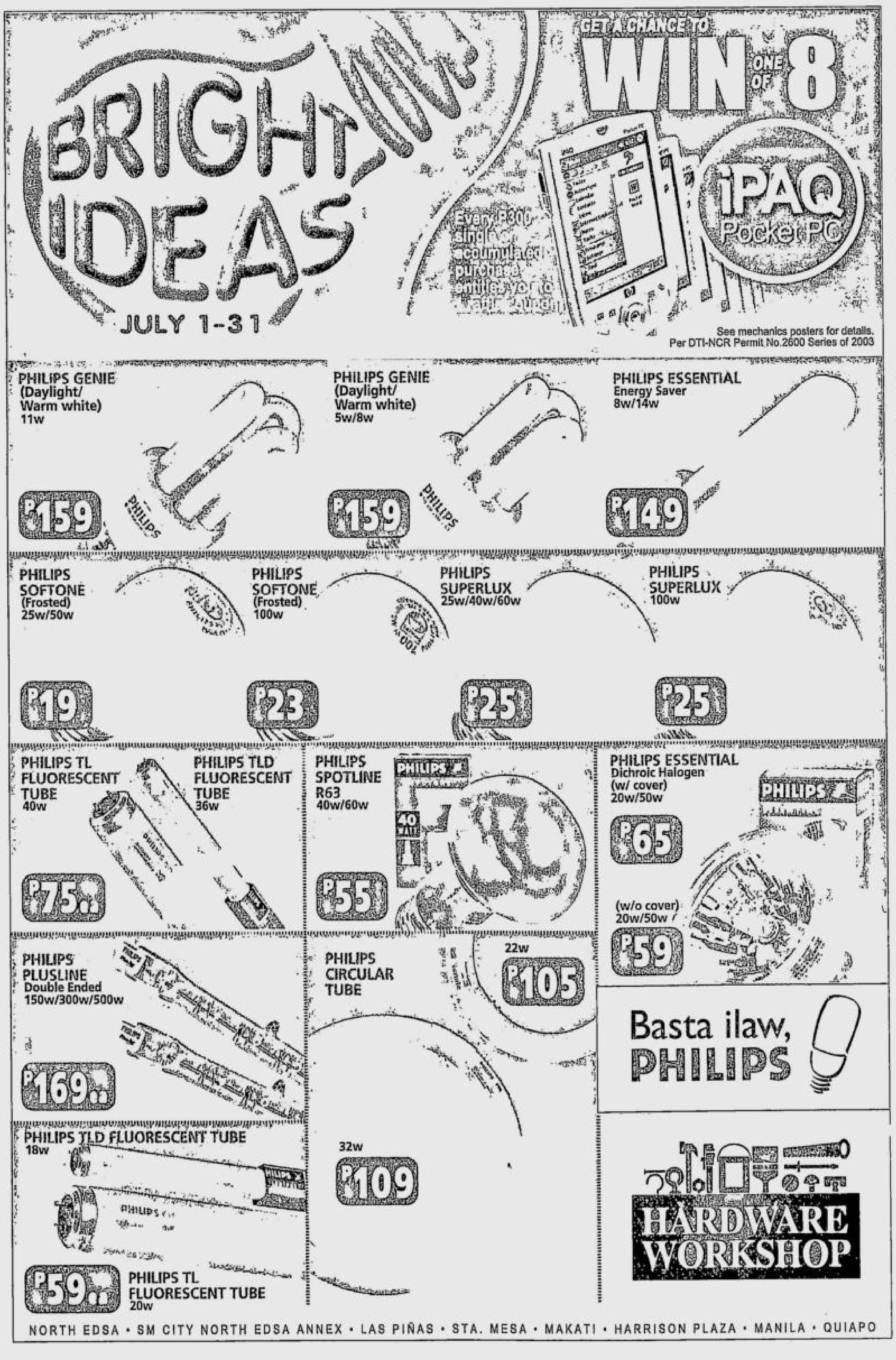
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Creba: Withholding tax on realty sales illegal, unconstitutional

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) asked the Supreme Court to strike down as illegal and unconstitutional a Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) regulation imposing a withholding tax on real property sales.

Section 3(J) of BIR Revenue Regulations No. 6-01 levies and collects, at the point of every sales transaction of real property classified as ordinary asset, a 1.5 percent to 5 percent Creditable Withholding Tax (CWT) based on the gross selling price or fair market value whichever is higher.

The CWT is purportedly an advance payment of the tax on net income imposed under the National Internal Revenue Code.

Illegal

In its petition, Creba said the regulation is illegal because with regard to regular businesses and ordinary assets or stock-in-trade, the BIR has no authority under the NIRC or any other law to collect, through a withholding tax, an advance payment of the income tax at the point of every sales transaction and based on gross selling price.

Creba said that under the NIRC the withholding of taxes, whether creditable or final, applies only to items of income that are fixed, determinable, periodic or casual.

Withholding does not apply to income derived from selling stock-in-trade in the regular course of business, the tax on which is: (1) based on net taxable income rather than gross income or gross selling price, and (2) collectible at the time of filing of the income tax returns rather than at the point of every transaction, Creba said.

Unconstitutional

Creba also branded the regulation as unconstitutional for violating substantive due process, not only because it was promulgated without authority of law but also because it amounts to imposing a tax on unrealized income.

When a tax on net income is collected at a time when there is not even any net income to speak of in the first place, and when such collection entails an oppressive financial burden particularly when a loss rather than income results at the end of the legally prescribed taxable period, this cannot but amount to an unjust taking or a deprivation of property without due process of law, Creba said.

Under the regulation, Creba said, the BIR—disregarding the clear provisions of law as to the basis of the tax, the manner of computing and the period for payment—is taxing "ordinary" income from sale of real property classified as ordinary assets as if these were "casual" income from the sale of capital assets that is subject to the Capital Gains Tax.

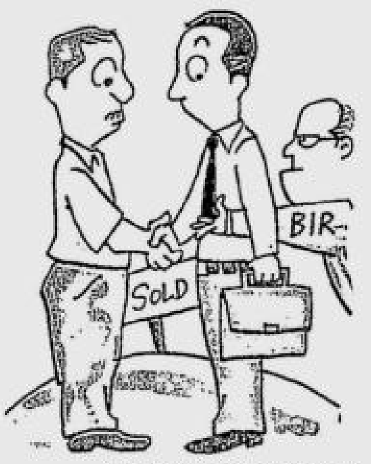

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Oppressive burden

Thus, Creba said, the oppressive burden is further compounded when the creditable withholding tax is computed similarly as the capital gains tax; that is, based on the property's fair market value or zonal valuation which is generally higher than the contract price, and which by no stretch of imagination can be considered as gross income, much less taxable net income.

The compounded injury aggravates in the case of installment sales where only 25 or 30 percent is paid, however short or long the balance is payable; for, under Sec. 3(J) BIR Revenue Regulations 6-01, down payment of at least 25 percent is considered as cash sale, Creba said.

Creba added that the situation becomes not only tragic but absurd when, at the time of filing the income tax returns, confusion arises as to what will be reported for purposes of determining the income tax due—the contract price or the zonal value.

Violation

The regulation also violates the equal protection clause of the Constitution, Creba said, since it is applied only to real estate firms and not to other businesses similarly situated.

Real estate firms that regularly embark on land development and housing production and sale are no different from any other production or manufacturing firms in terms of the manner of doing business, as well as in terms of treatment for income tax purposes under the law, hence the BIR has no reason to treat income taxation on realty sales differently under its regulations, Creba said.

Fitness

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160
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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Releasing your demons

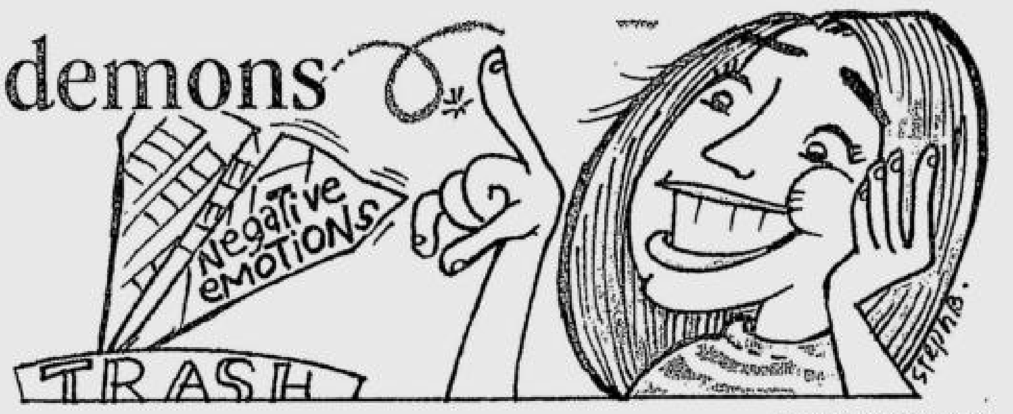

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

"The damage in deceiving others is slight compared with the needless suffering of deceiving yourself..."—Agiel

DUE to special requests by readers on letting go of negative emotions, here are some insights that might be of help to those who sometimes go mad from time to time.

Help is needed when you...

- wake up in the morning and start asking yourself in front of a mirror, "Who are you?"
- recall moments of shame when your unintended behavior revealed a side of you that is unacceptable.
- want to withdraw from your family and friends and be left alone.
- perennially feel like a trapped and wounded animal.
- show repeated signs of losing your self-control.

Politically expedient

Each of us keeps secrets from others. It's a large portion of who we are, although much of the time we act as though we have nothing to hide. For this reason, it becomes politically expedient for two selves to emerge from within—the social self, which attempts to live up to the community's standards, and the inner self, the unadorned self which lives up to one's personal standards.

The result of two identities in one body creates duality—the conscious and the subconscious. The pressure it creates on the psyche is tremendous, forcing the person to develop "shadow sides."

The rule is simple. Unless we become aware of those unconscious shadow sides of who we are, we are certain to find ourselves at the mercy of their powerfully primitive demands. This means a guarantee on episodic outbreaks of destructive forbidden impulses.

Recognize your dark brother/sister

Feelings of going to pieces or coming apart. Behaving in a manner that causes you to plead temporary insanity as in... "I must have been out of my mind." You are self-righteous toward others, judging everyone according to your denied desires in the shadowy recesses of personality beside our most secret longings and anxieties, disturbing impulses of hate and love, terror and fascination. These come in the form of angels and demons.

Though we disguise our true motives with the mask of a false self, we retain hidden and private feelings/wishes. We learn to act one way for others to see, all the while knowing that this performance is not our real self. But, like all things demonic, the false self that we develop as a strategy of deliberate deception can get out of hand. After a while, the false self may become the only reality we know. In the end, the pretender no longer knows who he or she really is.

Better half

Every individual has a feminine and a masculine side. And it is said that the goal of harmony is the merging of the two. Today, however, modern psychology challenges men to embrace their feminine side (love, acceptance, forgiveness) and for women to accept their masculine side (aggressiveness, objectiveness and drive). Denying the existence of either side leads to bitterness, while accepting their existence will create the emergence of a better half.

Survival tips

- Let go. Holding on to who or what you are supposed to be despite the urgings of your soul can cause you stress.
- Make a list. Write down under two headings "me" and "not me" your best and worst qualities.
- Be more accepting of your perfections and imperfections.
- Understand your disenfranchised self—the one you keep denying is your true self. Allow it to emerge.
- Pay attention to your so-called Freudian slip—that slip of the tongue that really speaks the truth. There is a message for you.
- Acknowledge the forces inside you—life and death, light and darkness, joy and pain, good and evil.
- Take a stand. Choose one side. If it is light, then you will attract goodness; if it is darkness, then you will attract destruction. Affirm "I release my demons and embrace my angels."
- Stop posing as yourself. Practice self-honesty.
- When you feel you are about to lose control, grab a glass of ice water and splash it on your face. This should shock your senses back in place. If there is no water within reach, pinch yourself.
- Put a basin of water with 1 cup of salt under or beside your bed. This should absorb negative energy from your room.
- Exorcise yourself. Close your eyes and put yourself in a meditative state by doing your slow breathing exercise. Imagine you are under a shower. Open the faucet. Instead of water, it is pure, white light washing away your darkness. Recite loudly, "I am bathing in heaven's light."
- Practice the art of sipping tea. Get a pot of hot rose tea. (source: Chaa, Tea House, Robinsons Manila) Sit in one cozy corner of your office or home. Give yourself at least 10 minutes of quiet time. Slowly sip the aromatic tea. Inhale its soothing vapors while drinking. Its essence and flavor will fill and cleanse the senses.

Love and light!

Excerpted from "Mirror, Mask & Shadow" by Sheldon Kopp

> The social self attempts to live up to the community's standards while the inner self lives up to one's personal standards

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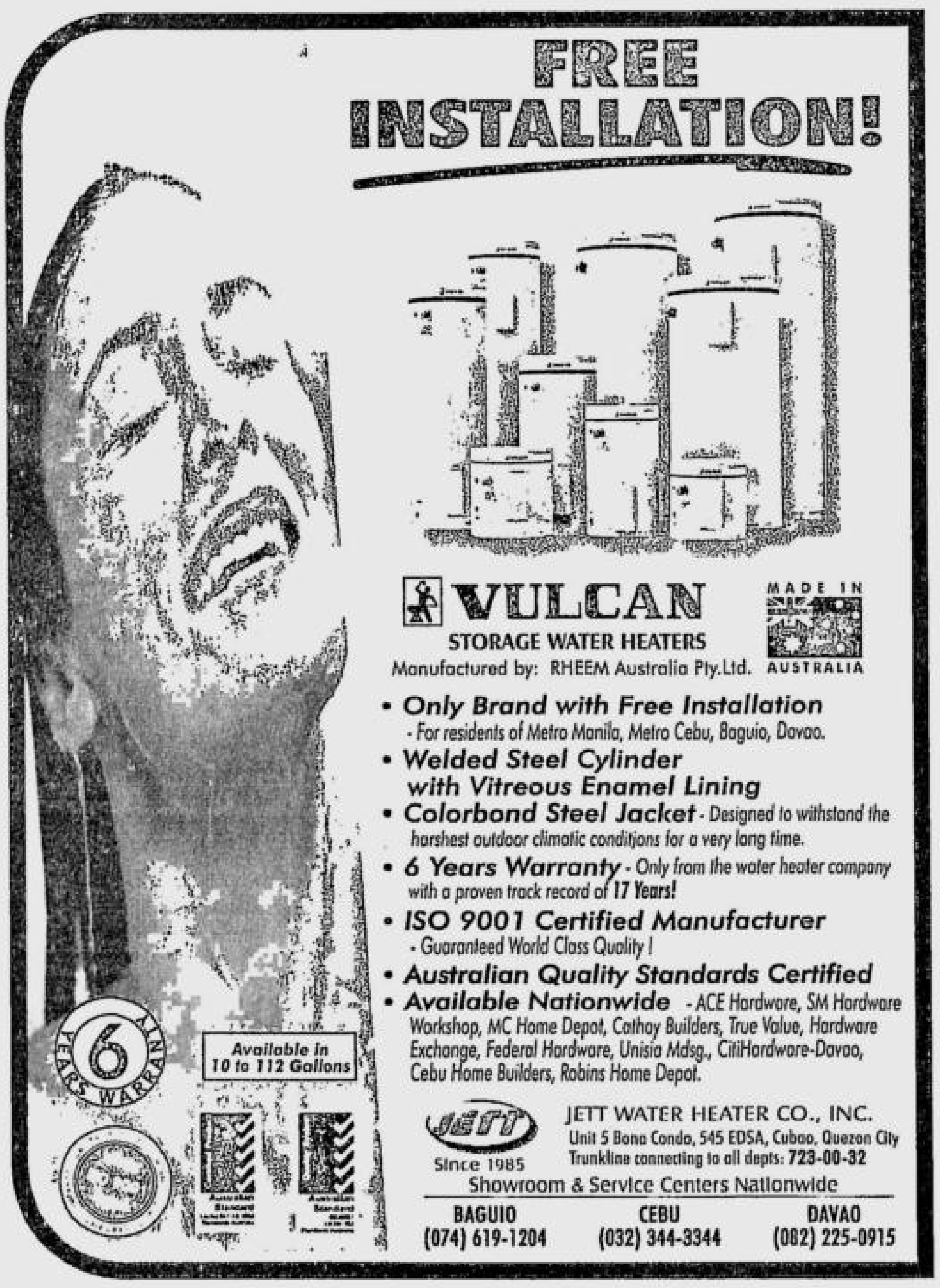
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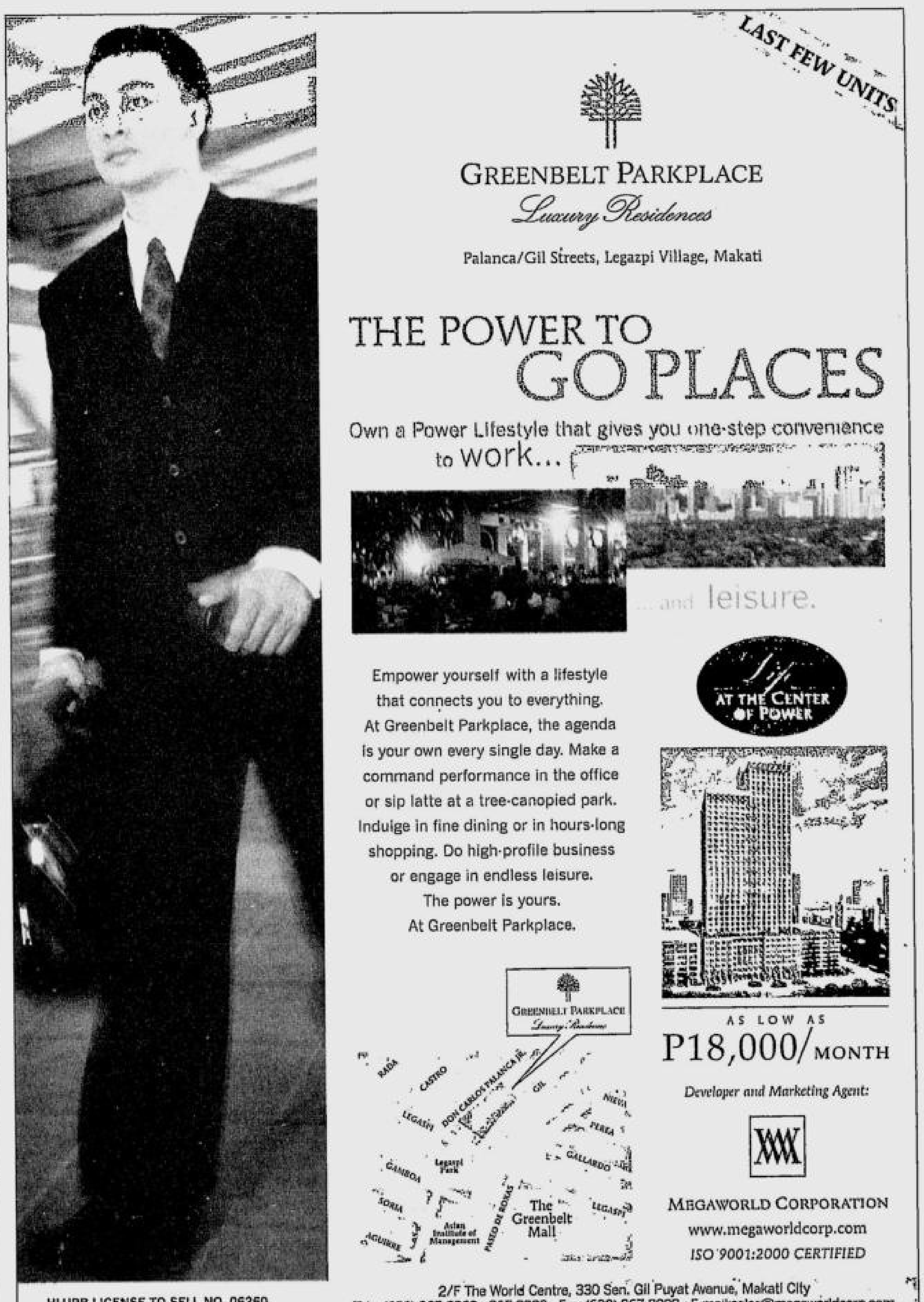
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BEAUTIES ON PARADE. Marisa Lopa, Michelle C. Reyes, Vina Monasterio, Marie C. Young, Riana H. Trajano, Peachy Concepcion and Rissa Araneta

THE HECHANOVA ROYALS. Paing and Mely's children Raffy, Renna, Raissa and Riana, sons-in-law Ramon Posadas and Ramon Trajano, daughter-in-law Gina Gabaldon and grandchildren

Birthday for a cause

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

IT was a long weekend when the gals, all in eye-catching Hawaiian get-ups, attended **Mellie Ablaza**'s birthday bash for her closest pal **Letty Syquia**, dahlings. It seemed like there was a gold rush because they knew how Mellie took care of minute details. The function room of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club turned into a tropical paradise with the help, naturellement, of her *tres* talented son, interior and party events designer **Jun-Jun Ablaza**. For the yummy treats, **Millie Reyes of the Plaza** took care of that, *palanggas*.

Whoever said society women just party should think again. Some of them possess hidden talents, like **Tereret Liboro, Alice Briones** and **Nori Ongsiako** who did a mean Hawaiian number. **Pitang Tiongson**, a lyric soprano, performed a song. **Myrna Borromeo** did her signature Liza Minelli song, "New York, New York," and **Yoly Ayson** swung her hips to "Hawaiian Wedding Song." But this didn't stop **Jorge Hizon** and his group from singing, which inspired **Baby Antonio** to do a solo number.

Being the lady of the hour, Letty was asked to say a few words. "I can't thank Mellie enough for hosting the lunch and all my friends who came to be with me on this special day," she said. "I agreed to have this birthday party because, instead of gifts, friends gave voluntary donations to the National Shrine of the Miraculous Medal Parish in Parañaque and to the Mother Ignacia Healing Center in Novaliches."

And "give" they did, dahlings!

Dashing as ever at 75

Low-profile but well-respected business tycoon **Paing Hechanova**, was against celebrating 75 years of his wonderful life, dahlings, but, as he jokingly remarked . . nis birthday speech, "I changed my mind when several of my close friends and contemporaries passed away in the last two months."

So, after all the urging of his famille, he finally conceded on the condition that his birthday bash be kept as simple as possible. Dapper as usual, he was the ultimate gentleman, which he was even when still a hardcourt heartthrob playing for the UST Goldies and the Philippine team. Paing was known as the dashing "Mr. Basketball." He cut a smart figure beside his wife, civic leader **Mely Concepcion** of Manille's *alta sociedad*, who was looking so much slimmer and great in a simple red cocktail outfit.

Naturellement, *palanggas*, the hallmarks of any Hechanova social event are Mely and her superbly well-bred children. After all, the famille that prays together, stays together, *n'est ce pas?* (as in, *di ba*?) Regarded as one of Cosmo Manille's best party hostesses, Mely, with her bosom pal, vivacious **Rica Gonzalez-Garcia**, meticulously planned this fun event. Mely and daughter, working socialite and top gourmand **Renna Angeles**, went through no less than eight food tastings, until Polo Club's executive chefs met Mely's high standards. **Rica Garcia** coordinated with Miss Flower Power herself, **Toni Serrano Parsons** of 517, to achieve the elegant eye-catching centerpiece of large maroon candles surrounded by a square wreath of maroon, yellow and blue flowers.

Earlier, a Mass was held at the club's Turf Room, "to thank the Lord for all the blessings he has showered me," said the celebrator. It was followed by a sumptuous dinner at the ballroom of the horse-y set's favorite stable. Co-Makati Rotarian Jaguar **Willie Soong** emceed the short program, starting with a simple, "short" tribute to Paing by golfing buddy and mega monetary board member **Nonoy Alindogan**. One of Nonoy A's golfing buddies commented, "If that's a short tribute, I hate to think what is long!" Oooops! Paing was then given a champagne toast by Mely and his children: **Renna**, only son **Raffy** and his wife, vibrant southern belle **Gina Gabaldon**; workasonic **Raissa** and husband **Monet Posadas**; and youngest daughter **Riana** and hubby **Ramon Trajano**. It was followed by a wild disco number by Makati Rotarians and an Elvis Presley rendition by former Solicitor General and co-Rotarian, another southern baron, **Frank Chavez**, who simply floored the chi-chi pack with his wicked hip movements a la Presley. It made several high-risk ladies swoon like school gals, making their pals worry about an impending heart attack from such a show of emotions. No such thing happened, thank goodness. But one *alta* socialite was very verbal, expressing out loud, "Wow! I never knew Frank could move his hips that way. He's not only very smart, but is talented, too, in another, more important way." Oh-la-la is all *moi* could say.

Then came the part when mature invitees got the chance to rejuvenate themselves by rocking the ballroom through old tunes dished out by **Nonoy Lopez** and his band.

The renowned Hechanova special fruit cakes were brought home by society personas, and so were the colorful floral bags for women.

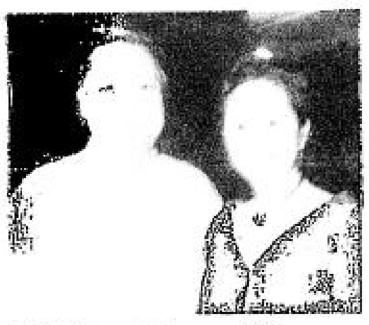
But the news that everyone talked about was the marriage of one of our favorite socialites, a widow, to her super nice, constant escort for many years now. Guess who?

More important, though, was the simple and tasteful evening celebrating Paing's 75th year, a soft-spoken Visayan gentleman who has spent the past 30 or so years working for the ideals and causes of Rotary International.

BANKER O.V. Espiritu with Mr. Jaguar Willy Soong

RAISSA and Ramon Posadas

MANAGING director of Home Inc. Susan Reyes and her constant lovey-dovey escort, architect Conrad Onglao


SUPER couple Jun and Nancy Tambunting

LINDA Lopez with Corito Kalaw and Corina Kalaw

WOMEN of substance: Josie Sy, Ambassador Isabel Wilson and Josie Lichauco

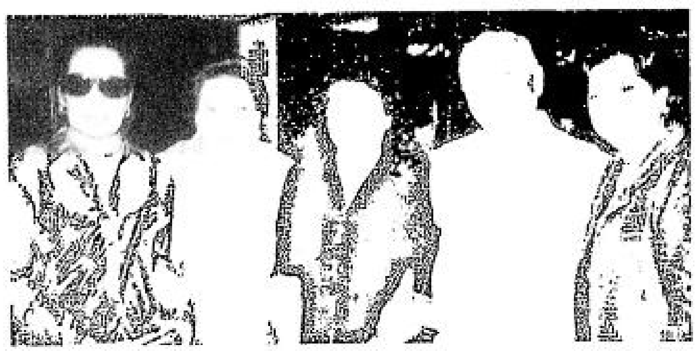
WOMEN of style: Madeline Lim, Meldy Cojuangco and Mercy Tuason

HOSTESS Mellie Ablaza watches as lady of the hour Letty Syquia blows another great year away.

MELY and Paing Hechanova with their grandson Anthony Trajano

RENNALIC and Mely with Ma Vic Lim and Therese Escaler Dabao

HOT shot businessmen Jimmyton Araneta, John Concepcion, Raffy Hechanova and Ton Ton Concepcion


THE LADY behind the shades is none other that Zita Feliciano with Rennalic Angeles, Therese Escaler Dabao, Mundy Feliciano and Tess Escaler

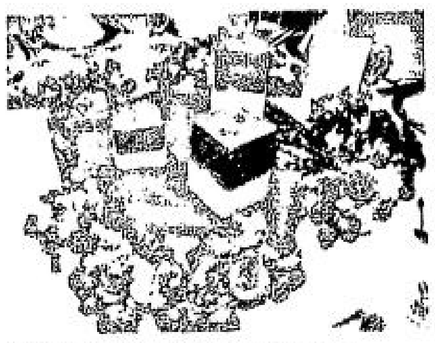


TABLE setting executed by Toni Parsons, conceptualized by Riss Garcia and Mely H., candles by Helen Y. Dee

NENE Victoriano with Susie Ortigas, Mely H. and Joey Cuisia

HOT, hot business magnates: Vince Carlos, Robert Kwan, Sonny Tambunting and Johnny Carlos

LITA Ruiz, Angela Uinlo, Paing and Mely H., Cecille Limjoco and Roger Davis

MILA Lim, Millie Reyes of the Plaza, caterer of the affair, Nini Layug and Baby Antonio

OLGA Martel

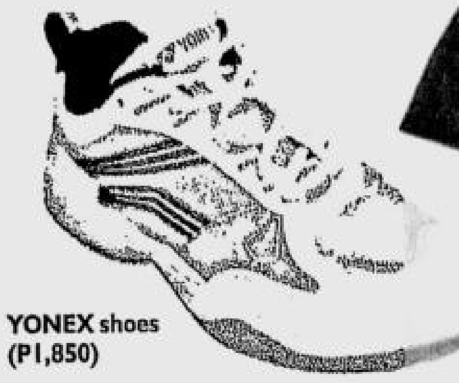
MORE of the luau gals: Ofie Recto, Letty Syquia, Nena Borromeo and Alice Briones

NINI Licaros and Cindy Velez

THE LUNCH BUNCH. Pitang Tiongson with Baby de Jesus, Fe Yu, Helen Ong and Evelyn Duran

AIKO Taylor, Letty Syquia and Malou Unson

FANNY Blanco, Mellie Ablaza and Erlie Gamboa



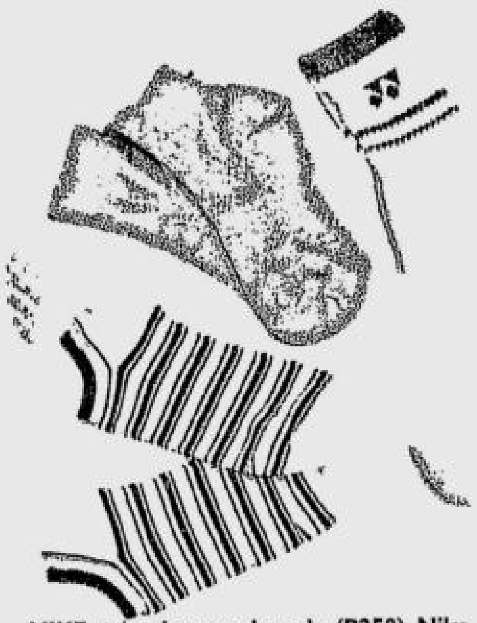
YONEX shoes (P1,850)

POLO overrun shorts (P150), available in bazaars

MAUI & Sons shorts (P310), available in department stores

MARKS & Spencer white racer-back sports bra (P1,850), Nike Dri-Fit purple bra (P1,095), Nike Dri-Fit black racer-back bra (P1,095), HerBench sports bra (P189) and Adidas red tank (P850)

Dress for it but know how to play the game



NIKE striped women's socks (P250), Nike Dri-Fit gray men's socks and Yonex white socks (P320/three pairs a pack)

Text by Gem Padilla
Contributor
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

BADMINTON is undeniably fast becoming one of the most popular sporting activities in town. From executives to housewives, celebrities and even politicians, the sport is picking up a broad range of followers.

This may be due to one of the most appealing aspects of badminton—its approachability. Just about anyone with the inclination can play. It's that simple.

Complications arise when you get hooked. Where once you were satisfied with a regular racquet, now you have to have the ultra-mega-super-power-something-something-8000 (I am one of those people I'm poking fun at; I, too, covet the "ultimate racquet").

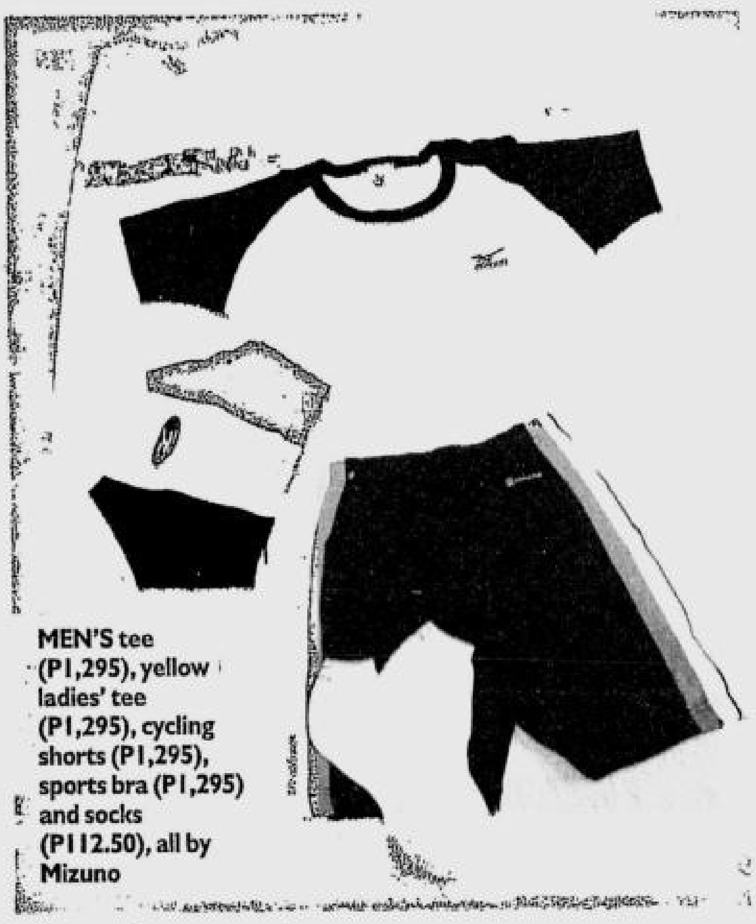
The same is true for the rest of the gear we accumulate because of the sport. The demand for these products is on the rise. The once pocket-friendly hobby has now turned into pricey vice, especially for the fashion-conscious.

Buying badminton paraphernalia these days needs some planning to get the quality and even a bit of fashion you want based on your budget. Good thing there is a wide selection of products now available to us.

To most players, the single most important purchase is a good pair of court shoes. With features like power cushion, ankle support, absorption, etc. a pair can run anywhere from P1,200 to P5,000. You can opt for the no-fuss, lightweight, classic whites, the Dragonfly. At P500 or less, it's tough to beat.

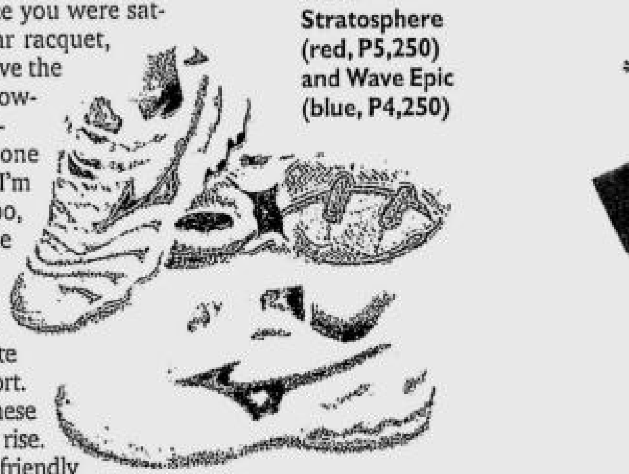
Basic badminton attire for men and women players includes cotton tees and polyester shorts. The range in style and price will be limited only by your diligence in the hunt. They are out there, from famous brands with high-tech fabrics, designer names, to brands x, y and z.

Getting the right equipment without breaking the bank will set you on your way to badminton bliss. In the end, it's nice to dress the part, but if you can't play, it doesn't mean much.



MEN'S tee (P1,295), yellow ladies' tee (P1,295), cycling shorts (P1,295), sports bra (P1,295) and socks (P112.50), all by Mizuno

YONEX navy and white shirt with zipper (P650), Yonex shirt with buttons (P650), Nike Sphere Dry V-neck light blue tee and Adidas V-neck yellow tee (P675)



MIZUNO Wave Stratosphere (red, P5,250) and Wave Epic (blue, P4,250)

NIKE Dri-Fit yellow men's tee (P895), Adidas V-neck tee (P400), HerBench V-neck lilac tee, and Yonex shirt with collar (P980)

From housewives to politicians, everyone's playing badminton

YONEX IS AVAILABLE AT RACQUETS & MORE WITH BRANCHES IN GUIJO STREET, MAKATI, AND KATIPUNAN AVENUE, QC;
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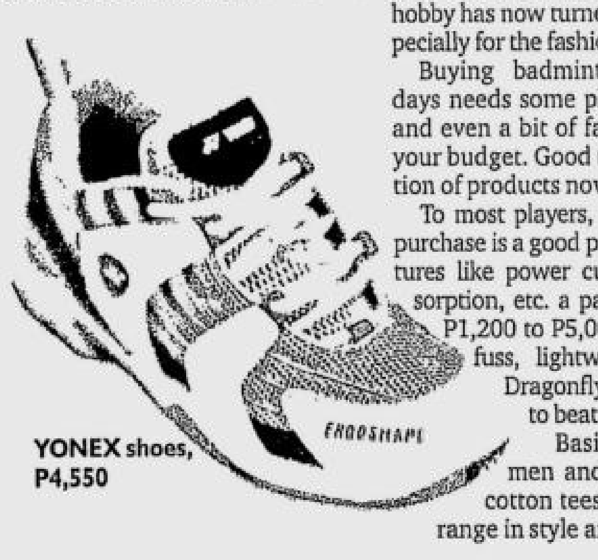
HERBENCH AT BENCH AND BENCH BODY BOUTIQUES



YONEX shoes, P4,550

MIZUNO Wave Stardom (P2,950) and Mizuno Wave Gate (P2,750)

ERRATUM

In our July 13 story "Badminton makes a mean comeback," Joseph Langie was erroneously identified as a Malaysian trainer. He is Indonesian. Our apologies.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Stork to standing bow

THIS is a combination of two yoga moves. It develops balance, strengthens the muscles of the supporting leg, and stretches the front of the hip and thigh of the raised leg.

Equipment:
None

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with your legs together. Bend your left knee and hold your ankle with your left hand. Raise your right arm up to help you balance. This is the stork. Stay in this position for three to five breaths.

2. Bend forward until your torso is more or less parallel to the floor. This is the standing bow. Stay in this position for three to five breaths.

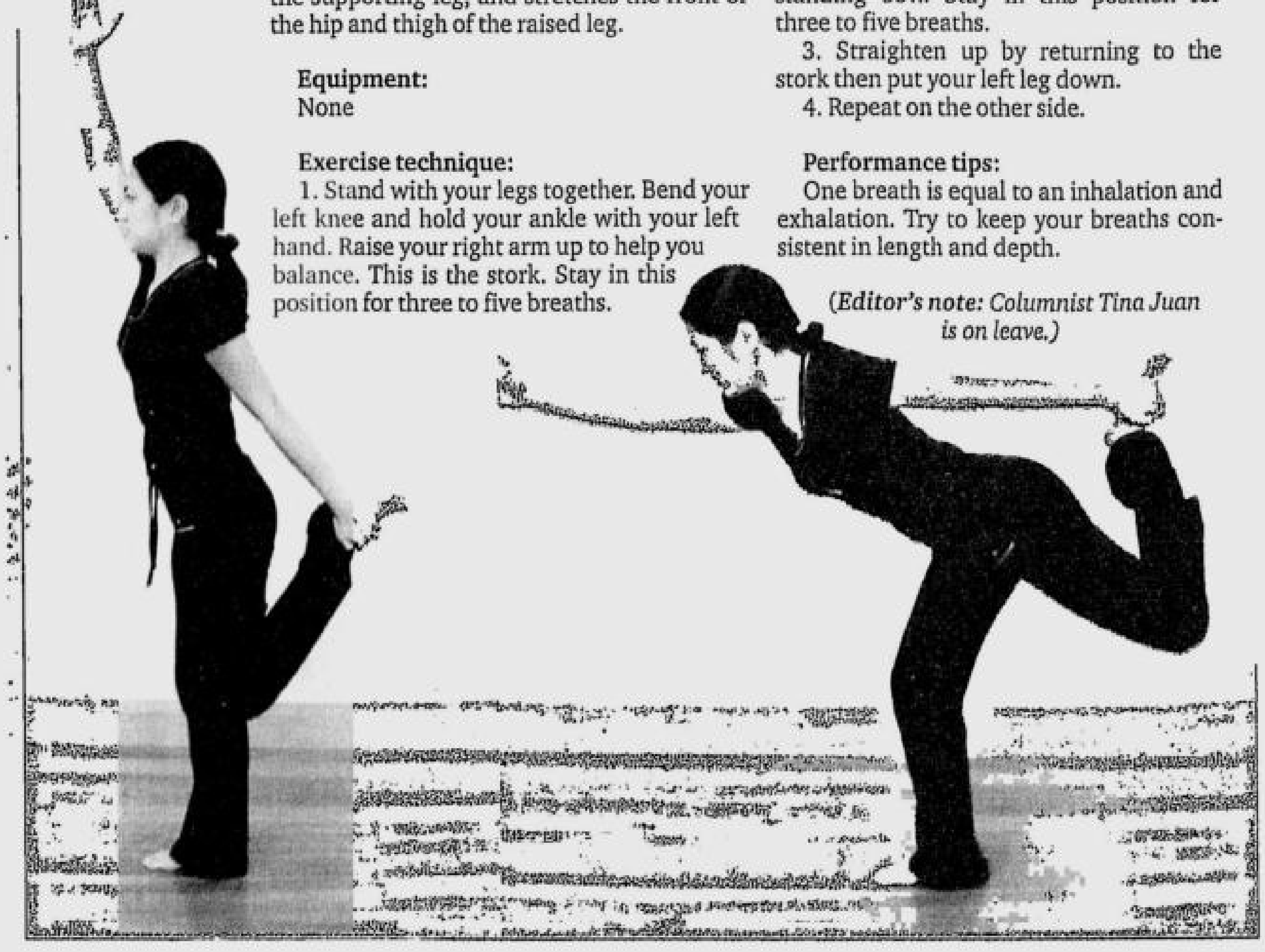
3. Straighten up by returning to the stork then put your left leg down.

4. Repeat on the other side.

Performance tips:

One breath is equal to an inhalation and exhalation. Try to keep your breaths consistent in length and depth.

(Editor's note: Columnist Tina Juan is on leave.)



Fitness campaign for women redefines beauty

THIS month, Nike is set to empower Asian women with its own definition of "beauty": toned muscles, a confident persona, and a whole lot of guts to back it all up.

Demonstrating Nike's firm understanding of what motivates and inspires women, the Nike Beautiful campaign illustrates what results from the lethal combination of strength and beauty, and highlights the desire for fitness among Asian women as one of the means to achieving their goals.

According to Colo Ventosa, Nike Phils. marketing manager, the new campaign will see Nike reaching out to women who are bold enough to realize that muscles only serve to complement their beauty, not alienate it.

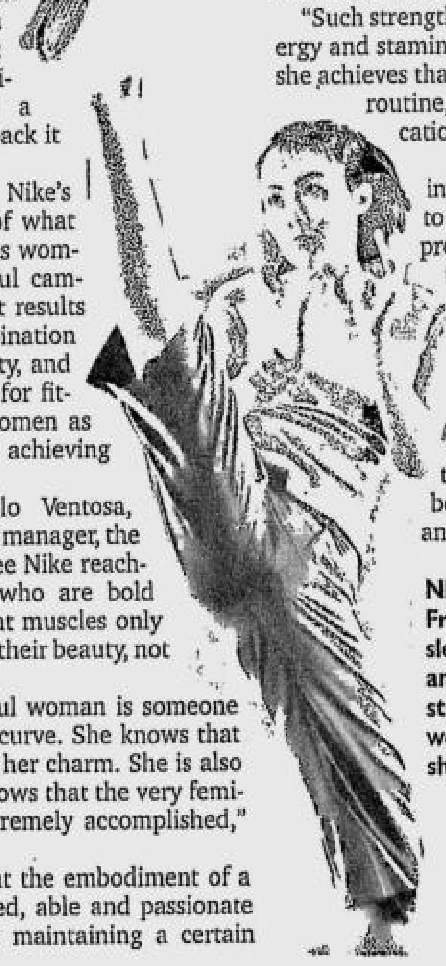
"The Nike Beautiful woman is someone who is ahead of the curve. She knows that confidence improves her charm. She is also feisty because she shows that the very feminine can also be extremely accomplished," she said.

Ventosa added that the embodiment of a confident, empowered, able and passionate woman comes from maintaining a certain level of fitness—one of the multi-dimensional sources of inner strength.

"Such strength," she said, "gives her the energy and stamina to get what she wants, and she achieves that strength through her fitness routine, which she follows with dedication and determination."

For these women, Nike has invested in extensive research to create and innovate fitness products that help them achieve their fitness goals, be it through a ripping combat session, or stretching it out through yoga.

Nike Beautiful comes alive this month with an advertising campaign, interactive website, a motivational book, gym workout programs and a full women's fitness event.



NIKE French sleeve top and stretch woven shorts

Do we have free choice or is our life predestined?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

CECILE Gutierrez, a former co-employee in a previous company I worked with, also the mother of movie actress and environmental activist Chin Chin Gutierrez, asked me to answer in this column the following letter she e-mailed to me:

"I have been a great fan of yours for many years. You must still remember me back in the '70s.

"I have a question regarding conscious choices which comes up every time I am interviewed about Chin Chin. I am always asked how my daughter is as she is, and what's special about her.

"After being a nun for 10 years, I got out, got married and had two children. Fact is, my gynecologist said it would be difficult for me to have a child.

"It was then that I prayed hard to have a child and decided consciously that I would have a very special child, one who would have a mission for the world.

"Soon after, Chin Chin was born. At 5 days old, her eyes were awake and she was so aware of the world and us. Chin Chin often tells me she remembers and can relate what was taking place. She was only 4 when you came for a visit in our house.

"During the interview with Inday Badiday on TV, Chin Chin remarked: 'Thank you, Mom! Thank you for choosing me as your child.'

"My question is, who chooses to whom we are born, the parent, the child or both? I was aware of consciously making a choice to have Chin Chin as a special child. Being chosen to be on the cover of Time Magazine representing women heroes of Asia from among so many candidates is special. It doesn't happen every day!

"Do we also choose to be sick? And also, do we choose to consciously die? Because I know how I have made a decision when and where I shall die.

"Can you please give me and your readers your thoughts on these questions?"

What I have to say on the above questions may not reflect the more popular and orthodox answer people have come to expect. But since you asked for my opinion, then here it is.

I believe man's will is absolutely free. It is a gift given to us by God. Even God cannot oppose or take it away from us because to do so will be to contradict himself.

We are therefore solely responsible for all our actions and choices. And this permeates all aspects of our existence.

Based on the above premise, we freely choose the parents we are going to have, the country and time we are going to be born in and the conditions or circumstances of our life in order to work out the karma we have incurred in our past lives.

Since you also made a conscious choice to have a special child with certain characteristics, then the soul of that special child simply responded to it. Therefore, the choice was mutual.

It may be difficult for most to accept it, but the fact is, we also choose the circumstances under which we are going to live a particular life. We choose to be poor or wealthy, to be healthy or sickly, to be bright or dull.

Certain sicknesses are karmic, and must be suffered by certain people for them to learn a lesson or work out their karma.

Karma is the universal and inexorable law that adjusts effects of past actions and choices to their rightful causes. It is sometimes known as the Law of Compensation.

The great American psychic and prophet, Edgar Cayce, defined karma as "simply meeting one's self," meaning, "we meet the consequences of the actions or choices we have made in the past."

The Christian Bible was referring to karma when it says, "Whatever you sow, you shall reap."

Unlike human justice, which is imperfect and can be distorted, there is no escaping the law of karma. Whatever we do shall come back to us, nothing less and nothing more.

Karma is based on free choice. Without free choice, there is no karma. Predestination is simply the result of free choices we have made in previous lives.

Based on the above, it is clear we also choose the date and time of our death. God does not punish or reward us, we punish or reward ourselves, with the full knowledge and permission of God.

This is a personal opinion which I strongly hold, but which I do not impose or force on others. Anybody is free to accept or reject it.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 810-7245 or 892-6806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

> God does not punish or reward us, we punish or reward ourselves, with His full knowledge and permission

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Do I have to file claims with an HMO plan?

An HMO program does away with the hassle of filing claims for medical services received. Members just have to present their MEDICard IDs at affiliated hospitals and clinics when they seek medical services. The plan works the same way when the members are referred to another HMO doctor, specialist or hospital for care. The only time you have to file reimbursement is during emergencies, wherein the member rushes to a non-accredited medical facility. Reimbursement must be filed within 30 days from the date of the incident.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dentistry is the field of expertise of accredited healthcare provider **Joseph N. Villafuerte.** "Doc Joseph", as he has gone to be known, finished his studies in Dentistry at the Centro Escolar University. He has had more than 13 years of clinical experience and joined MEDICard's team of dental service providers in 1997. He is a member of the Rizal Dental Chapter and the Philippine Dental Association. Members may seek his services at his clinic, the Villafuerte-Gillego Dental Clinic, located at 154 Sub-Urban Lanes Commercial Center, Cainta, Rizal. Clinic hours are from Mondays to Saturdays, 9 AM to 7 PM.

Contract Signing

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES CORP. (TMP) signed last July 03 its renewal corporate healthcare agreement with MEDICard. Present during the contract signing held at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel were (seated L-R) Jose Maria Aligada (Toyota 1st VP), Dr. David Go (Toyota EVP), Dr. Nicanor Montoya (MEDICard Pres.) & Luis Montoya (MEDICard EVP & GM). Also present were (standing L-R) Rona Dugang (Toyota HR Staff), Leilani Valdez (Toyota Mngr.-Com & Ben/HRD), Miriam Villafuerte (MEDICard Mktg. Services Mngr.) & Coco Cervantes (MEDICard Mktg. Services Asst. Sup.). TMP, the market leader in the Phil. automotive manufacturing industry and a loyal MEDICard client awardee, has been a corporate member since 1991.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 818-2161. For group or corporate membership, dial 812-8360, 817-5136 or 817-4985 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asia Pacific Region to be ISO 9001: 2000 certified

Marathon makes lasting impact on kids

THE 27th National Milo Marathon encourages people of all ages, especially children and families, to run as part of a healthy and active lifestyle. The Milo Marathon, with 13 regional legs before the national finals, has different categories for serious competitors and beginners alike: the full 42-kilometer marathon and the 10-K run in the Metro Manila leg, and again in the national finals; the 20-K race in the other regional legs; the 5-K fun run; and the 3-K kiddie run.

The Milo Marathon attracted so many participants from all walks of life. Last year, 54,000 runners joined the contest. Recently, the second leg of the 27th National Milo Marathon in Roxas City had more than 4,200 runners.

Anah Mae Gonzaga, 11, of Filamer Christian College, won 6th place in the 3-K run for girls aged 10-12. Asked about the experience, she replied, "Enjoy *ako* 'cause it's fun!"

First cousins Don Juan Cortes and Christine Jade Camacho, both 7, and students of President Manuel Roxas Memorial School South, were elated as they donned their finishers' T-shirts, given only to those who run the entire distance within curfew time. Both kids said they want to run again next year because they enjoyed the race very much.

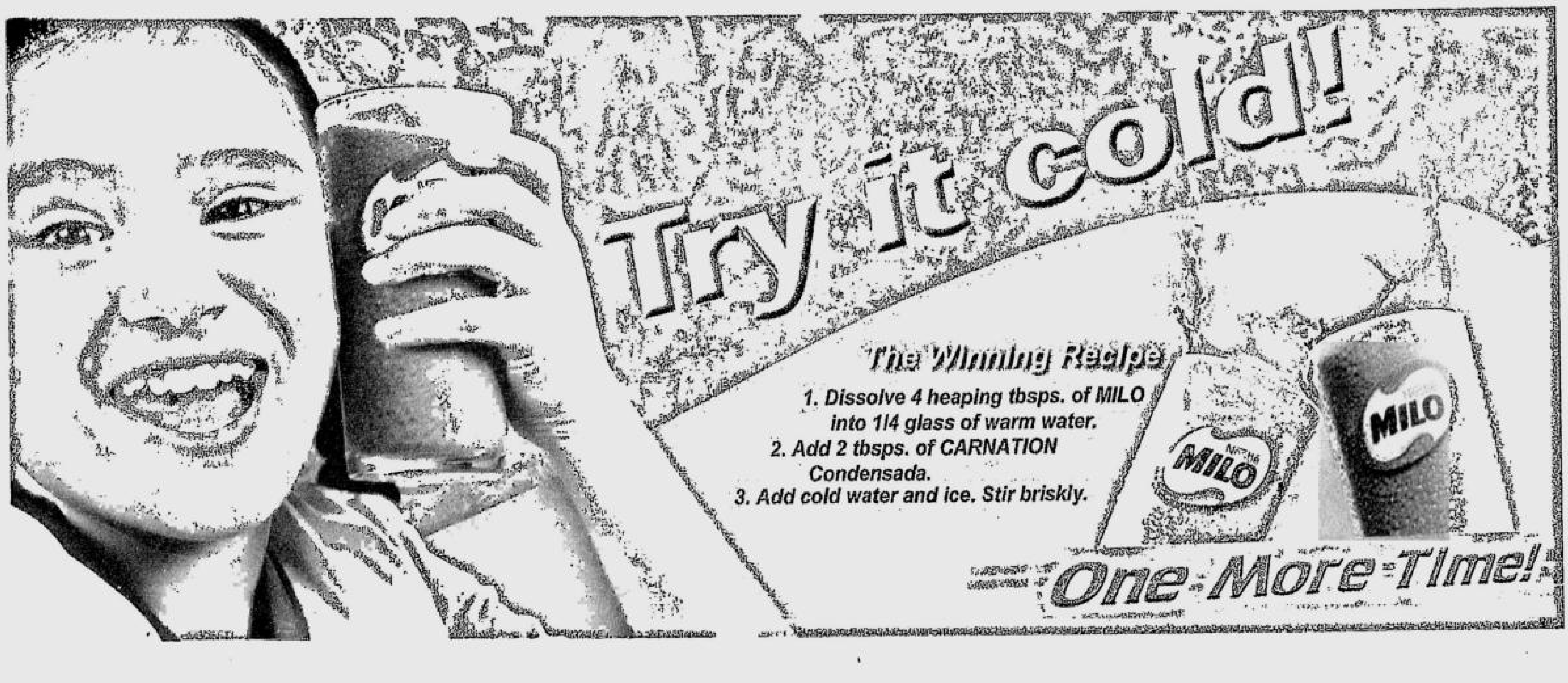
Dr. Susan Bauzon-Perlas, an obstetrician based in Roxas, accompanied her brother and sister-in law, Benjie and Margaret Bauzon, to cheer for their kids, Melvin, 10, Ariane, 7, and Vince Jeric, 5. The kids were also running in their first Milo Marathon, like Anah, Don and Christine. "It's the opportunity to explore and enjoy the event that encouraged them to participate in this event," said Dr. Bauzon-Perlas.

Parents, siblings and friends gave moral support to their runners, sharing their goals and dreams. Mae Luna, 10, should have competed in the 3-K run but chose to run the 5-K distance for the first time. She was one of the top finishers, placing sixth. Her proud mother kissed Mae after she was awarded by Milo Sports Executive Pat Goc-ong. As Mae ran the course, her uncle, Rally Saba, whose own daughter Cherry Gil, 13, won third place in the same category, was right behind her, encouraging Mae.

Kids who took part in the marathon have learned to set goals and overcome challenges. They've learned what it takes to compete, no matter what the outcome. And they have taken such lessons to "a larger race called life."

NINE-YEAR-OLD Roger Mission of Bago City, Negros Occidental, ran with a sense of purpose writ on his face, to finish first in his category of the 3-K run.

REWARD for a winner: This boy's face says it all, as Capiz Vice Governor Victor Tangco Sr. gives him his trophy.



The Winning Recipe
1. Dissolve 4 heaping tbsps. of MILO into 1/4 glass of warm water.
2. Add 2 tbsps. of CARNATION Condensada.
3. Add cold water and ice. Stir briskly.